



ESTABLISHED 1859.

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 Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland.
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 South African Pharmaceutical Association.
 Pharmaceutical Society of Natal.
 Pharmaceutical Society of the South African Republic.
 Central Pharmaceutical Association of N.Z.
 Otago Pharmaceutical Association, N.Z.
 Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland.
 Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia.
 Pharmaceutical Society of Tasmania.
 Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia.

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OUR SUMMER NUMBER.

THE Publisher of this journal has recently issued a card which may strike some who are looking after advertising ideas. It is a four-page "folder," and the front page bears the following:—

A Good Inset

Is one of the best advertisements. Make it a price-list if possible, with engravings where necessary. An illustration and a price go nearly all the way to get an order—the rest of the way is the need of the buyer. Circulars and handbills also make good insets. The best medium for distributing these is the Summer Number of

"The Chemist and Druggist,"

to be published on July 30, 1898. If you have a handbill which you would like to sample the trade with, please send us a specimen, and we will design a plan for distributing it.

Advertisers to the trade will please note the contents of the card, and address the Publisher for further particulars.

Summary.

VOL. LIII. commences with this number.

SEE the items printed on p. 34.

SEVERAL new formulas are printed on p. 23.

A CURIOUS TALE of a "well-thought-out formula" is told on p. 3.

HAYDON'S CHEMISTS' DEFENCE AGENCY expired on Thursday (p. 2).

TR. BENZ. Co. is a weak point with some Birmingham retailers (p. 2).

THERE is impure cocaine hydrochloride on the English market (p. 30).

FURTHER discoveries regarding the constituents of argon are described on p. 19.

"VICTORY CACHOUS" are under suspicion of having caused the death of a child (p. 3).

WHEN you receive unordered goods, return them promptly. This is the moral of a case reported on p. 14.

WE record the death of a centenarian who at one time was connected with a drug-trade side-line (p. 17).

THE chemists of Cambridge and Blackburn have met to protest against the Poisonous Substances Bill (p. 11).

MR. W. MARTINDALE contradicts the statement that *piq. strychn. hydrochlor.* of the new B.P. crystallises (p. 26).

THE BRITISH acting Consul-General in Germany gives some curious information regarding the chemical trade (p. 20).

THE WAR-TAX IN THE UNITED STATES on proprietary medicines, perfumery, &c., is fixed at 2½c. on the dollar (p. 23).

TO THE HARMLESS BROMIDE is attributed the death of an epileptic girl at Ulpha. The Coroner reprimanded a chemist (p. 2).

THE BULGARIAN ROSE-CROP will yield 60,000 T. oz. of otto. A Kezanlik correspondent does not think the price will rise (p. 30).

MR. J. C. UMNEY treats of the galenic liquors of the new Pharmacopœia, showing that improvement is possible in some of them (p. 24).

THE CAPE analyst in his annual report defends the recent actions against chemists, and shows the value of various condensed milks (p. 20).

AN ATTEMPT is being made in the Cape to amend the medical law so as to compel the formulas to be printed on containers of patent medicines (p. 8).

THE PETROLEUM COMMITTEE have reversed their previous vote, and the majority is now in favour of raising the legal flash-point from 73° to 100° (p. 10).

AN ALGERIAN PHARMACIST has cultivated the supply of medicines to the poor at the municipal expense by giving every applicant free bread in addition (p. 6).

REMEDIES for consumption are many and peculiar, and Sir Samuel Wilks reviews them, showing that pure air and plenty of sunshine are most successful (p. 21).

THE MELBOURNE CHEMIST charged with causing the death of a doctor by supplying him with atropine in mistake for morphia has been tried and acquitted (p. 8).

A CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' UNION has been formed. Its prime object seems to be to give its members information regarding situations. We report the meeting on p. 9.

OUR TRADE REPORT is now transferred to the end of the correspondence section and begins on p. 30. Quinine is scarce and dearer in second-hands, phenazone is cheaper, and bromides have gone down ½d. per lb. English benbane is dearer. Business is quiet.

WE include with this number a special supplement against the Government Poisons Bill, which we ask chemists to send to their Parliamentary representative (if they agree with it) with a covering letter. The Bill has passed through all its stages except the formal third reading in the House of Lords, and offers a real danger to pharmacy (p. 11).

English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Chemical Society Banquet.

The banquet to past Presidents of the Chemical Society, unavoidably postponed from June 9, has been finally fixed by the Council for Friday, November 11. It is to be held in the Hotel Métropole.

A Link with the Past.

It has been announced by circular within the past few days that Haydon's Chemists' Defence Agency, Birmingham, which was the residuary legatee of the old Chemists' and Druggists' Trade Association, would cease to exist after June 30. Not many of us knew that this interesting experiment had lasted so long.

Llandudno Indignant.

The proposed erection of a large chemical-works on the banks of the river Conway between Glen Conway and Llandudno Junction has been the cause of an outburst of indignant protest from dwellers in the vicinity. The columns of the local papers are filled with denunciations of the scheme.

New Analyst for Ipswich.

At a meeting of the Public Health Committee of the Ipswich Corporation, on June 22, the question arose of the election of a successor to the late Mr. J. Napier, F.C.S., who had been public analyst for nineteen years. The committee had advertised, and recommended the appointment of Mr. W. Lincoln Sutton, of Norwich, on the following terms:—(1) The appointment to be terminable by either party on giving six months' notice; (2) the retaining-fee to be 5*l.* 5*s.* per annum, with a fee of 10*s.* 6*d.* for every analysis. In the discussion which took place it was remarked that not a single application had been received from an analyst in Ipswich. It was suggested that the post had not been properly advertised, as there were many capable men in Ipswich willing and able to undertake the position. It was moved as an amendment that the matter should be referred back to the committee in order that steps might be taken to get the East and West Suffolk County Council to combine in securing the services of a first-class man, who would be a resident chemist, and whose appointment would be advantageous to the four different institutes teaching chemistry in the town. The amendment, after further discussion, was carried.

Botanising.

Students of the Manchester College of Pharmacy spent last Saturday afternoon in a visit, first to the Botanical Section of the Manchester Museum, and afterwards to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Old Trafford. At the first-named place an interesting lecture on the life-history of the principal cryptogams was delivered by Mr. F. Pilkington Sargeant, Ph.C., and at the Gardens several medicinal plants were described in detail.

Collodion Explodes.

On the evening of June 23 Mr. Wm. Adams, chemist, Dudley Road, Birmingham, had occasion to be in his cellar when a bottle of collodion burst and ignited, and but for the prompt action of a number of police-officers, who threw buckets of water over the fire before it obtained a foothold, the consequences might have been serious. Mr. Adams was badly burned about the arms and hands.

To Defeat Vandalism.

Golder's Hill, the estate of the late Sir Spencer Wells, on Hampstead Heath, is threatened by the enterprising builder. This is the second occasion; but the last time, by the timely efforts of the late Mr. Ernest Hart, the vandalism was averted. Now Mr. Samuel Figgis, the Mincing Lane produce-broker, who lives in the district, is taking a leading part in the endeavour to complete Mr. Hart's work, and his efforts are likely to be successful, for he has written to the *Times*

stating that most of those who subscribed before offer to double their subscriptions now.—When the sale of the property came on on Tuesday at the Mart, Mr. T. J. Barnatt (A. & F. Pears, Limited) bid 38,500*l.* for it, and secured it. It is understood that Mr. Barnatt bought the property on behalf of the syndicate which Mr. Figgis has organised, and who will retain the property until arrangements are made for its purchase for the public good.

Wine-licence Transfer.

The transfer of the off-licence attached to the business of Mr. J. J. Fell, chemist and druggist, Morecambe, to Mr. Whithead, who has acquired the business, was again considered by the Magistrates at the County Sessions on June 25. The transfer was refused at the last sitting on the objection of the police superintendent, who had not received sufficient notice. He was now perfectly satisfied as to the suitability of the intended holder of the licence, and the application was accordingly granted.

Birmingham Drugs.

Dr. Alfred Hill, medical officer of health for the City of Birmingham, in his report for the first quarter of the year, states that of nine samples of compound tincture of benzoin received three were found to be adulterated. In one case the adulteration consisted of water 20 per cent., glycerin 25 per cent., and a deficiency in the solid ingredients of 65 per cent. The vendor was fined 1*l.* and 9*s.* costs. In the two other cases the solid ingredients were deficient to the extent of 23 per cent. and 16 per cent. respectively, and the vendor in each case was cautioned by the Health Committee. Five samples of tincture of iodine were taken, and four were of the correct composition. The remaining one contained 17 per cent. of iodine in excess of the proper quantity, but no action was taken, as the vendor was the same who was prosecuted for the sale of tincture of benzoin. Seven or eight samples of tincture of rhubarb received were of satisfactory quality; one contained a little suspended vegetable matter, but was otherwise of the correct composition.

Who Sold the Strychnine?

An inquest was held at Malmesbury, Wilts, on June 23, on the body of a gamekeeper named Couzens, who was poisoned by strychnine in the form of a pill given him by his wife, who afterwards committed suicide. It was stated in evidence by Dr. Evans that enough strychnine was found in a bottle at deceased's house to poison a thousand people. It was criminal to supply it in that bulk, and he was quite unable to ascertain how such a quantity could have been obtained. The jury added a rider to their verdict commenting on the serious consequences likely to result from persons being able to procure strychnine in such large quantities. The Coroner observed that the offence was a serious one under the Pharmacy Act, and he hoped every diligence would be used by the police to discover the offender.

The Dangers of Bromide.

An inquest was held at Bridge End, Ulpha, on June 22, respecting the death of Elizabeth Eleanor Dawson, aged 17 years, who died suddenly at her father's house. The father stated that deceased had suffered from a modified form of epilepsy for a couple of years, but under the treatment of Dr. Fawcitt she had improved. In March his wife took her to Mr. Roberts, chemist and druggist, Millom, who gave her some medicine which she took up to June 9. On finding that his daughter was losing the power of her limbs, he asked Mr. Roberts if there was any danger in continuing the medicine. Mr. Roberts replied that the medicine was quite harmless. Subsequently he called in Dr. Woodburne, who saw his daughter in company with Dr. Fawcitt. Dr. Fawcitt stated that when he attended the deceased in February, 1897, she was suffering from a minor form of epilepsy. In August of the same year she went away for a change of air, and when he again visited her on June 9 last he found that she was suffering from the effects of bromide-poisoning. He was confirmed in this opinion by the father, who told him that the deceased had been treated by Mr. Roberts, of Millom, for fits, and was then taking the medicine which Mr. Roberts had supplied. Witness tested the medicine and found it to be of the character he expected. He believed

that the deceased died from acute inflammation of the right lung following poisoning from some preparation of bromide. He was of opinion that this drug, if given to persons who were peculiarly susceptible to it, or if given in large doses for a long period, might act as a poison, and he believed it was so in the present case. In summing up the Coroner said the chemist had done what was illegal in prescribing for a patient and supplying medicine. He then proceeded to read to the jury an extract upon manslaughter which stated that—

Any person upon whom the law imposes any duty, or who has by any wrongful act taken upon himself any duty, tending to the preservation of life, and who neglects to perform that duty and thereby causes the death of another, is guilty at least of manslaughter.

That, said the Coroner, was apparently what Mr. Roberts had done. He had taken upon himself the duty of preserving life. Through ignorance of the drug supplied he had not caused the death of another, but had injured deceased's health and laid her open to an attack of disease. Under the circumstances, as the patient had died from congestion of the lungs it would not be possible to prove a charge of manslaughter against Mr. Roberts. Under the circumstances of the case he would recommend the jury to bring in a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence—viz., that the deceased came by her death from congestion of the lungs probably caused by the excessive use of a drug. Verdict accordingly.

A Well-thought-out Formula.

At an inquest held at Leicester on June 22 respecting the death of a child from marasmus, arising from lead-poisoning, it was disclosed in evidence that the mother of the child, while pregnant, had taken some pills made by a Mrs. Hands, which had made her so ill that she had discontinued them. Mrs. Hands was called in, and stated that she was the wife of a shoe-operative. She circulated printed bills advertising certain pills for use by ladies. She had no medical qualification, and did not need one. The pills were made from a "thoroughly well-thought-out formula" given to her by a chemist named Harrison, who now lived at Derby. The reason she knew it was a "well-thought-out formula" was because it had been sent to London to the Medical Hall to be examined. She had not the formula with her, but she knew that amongst the ingredients were iron and belladonna. She had made up the pills herself, when she had not been busy, but she usually had them prepared by chemists in the town, and any doctor was at liberty to inspect the formula from which the pills were made. A verdict of death from marasmus, the result of prenatal lead-poisoning, was returned, the Coroner observing that certain suspicious facts had come out which might possibly be the subject for inquiry by the police.

Carbolic in a Ginger-beer Bottle.

On June 23 Joseph Hill, a shingler, of Hulland, Brockmoor, drank the contents of $\frac{1}{2}$ -gal. stone bottle, which he thought contained home-made ginger-beer. The bottle, however, contained carbolic acid, which had been used for disinfecting-purposes.

Negligent Nurses.

The Manchester City Coroner held an inquiry on June 24 into the circumstances attending the death of Frances Atkins, an inmate of the Workhouse Hospital at Crumpsall. It was stated in evidence that the resident medical officer had ordered a mixture of chloral and bromide for deceased, but the nurse in charge had given the woman $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of Battley's liquor opii sedativus instead. She discovered her mistake immediately afterwards, and at once informed the doctor, who applied the stomach-pump, but in spite of every effort the woman died next morning. The consulting physician at the workhouse, who had made a *post-mortem* examination, gave it as his opinion that sufficient Battley's solution to cause death could not have been absorbed in so short a time. Death was due to cerebral hæmorrhage induced by consumption. It was out of the question to discover whether death was accelerated by the Battley's solution, the woman not only being out of her mind, but also being a mass of disease. The jury, in returning a verdict agreeing with the medical evidence, censured both the nurse in charge and the

superintendent nurse, who had been, they were of opinion, guilty of gross carelessness. They recommended that bottles containing poison should be kept in a particular cupboard, which should be in the charge of one person only.

The Coroner and the Sale of Carbolic Acid.

On June 20 Dr. George Danford Thomas held an inquest at the St. Pancras Coroner's Court on the death of Mary Ann Hannard (54), who had committed suicide by taking carbolic acid, which she had purchased from an oil-shop in the neighbourhood. Dr. Richard P. Long, who had been called in, pointed out to the Coroner that the bottle in which the poison was sold was not labelled in any way. The Coroner said that at oil-shops carbolic, spirit of salt, and other poisons were sold at present, even to children, in any vessel they chose to take, without the slightest precaution being taken. There was no doubt that the Legislature, when the Sale of Poisons Act was passed, never contemplated that poisons would be sold in such small quantities, and, not wishing to hamper commerce, did not include carbolic acid. He did not see that there would be any harm done by the Government including it, and some of the other common poisons sold by oil-shop keepers under the second schedule of the Sale of Poisons Act. A juror pointed out that in the House of Lords that day the Poisonous Substances Bill was being considered. Another juror believed the reason action had not been taken was because the Pharmaceutical Society was opposed to it. The Coroner said that was not so; it was the Privy Council who refused to give power for carbolic acid being placed in the schedule. On many occasions juries had sent recommendations to the Home Secretary calling attention to the indiscriminate sale of poisons by oil-shop keepers and others, and to the necessity for an amendment of the Act.

The Cachous Suspected.

An inquest was held last week at Littleport (Cambridgeshire) by the Isle of Ely Coroner on the death of the infant daughter of a labourer. The mother of the child stated that she bought a halfpennyworth of pink musk cachous, about an ounce in weight, from the shop of a Mrs. Parker, in Station Road, Littleport. She gave them to the child, who ate them, and died, after an illness sixty hours in duration, with symptoms of poisoning. Mrs. Parker stated that she bought the box of cachous, which was labelled "Victory Cachous," from Fryer & Co. on May 9, and had done nothing whatever to the box or its contents. The inquest was adjourned for an analytical examination to be made.

Employing a Schoolboy.

At the Whitechurch Petty Sessions, on June 24, W. E. Shuttlewood, chemist, Malpas, was charged with employing William Taylor, aged 9 years, said child not having obtained a certificate relieving him from the obligation to attend school. Defendant was fined 6*s.* and costs.

Pledging a Husband's Credit.

At Braintree County Court, on June 22, before Deputy-Judge Fitzroy Cowper, Ann Downing, described as a chemist, of Braintree, sued J. H. T. Chick, also of Braintree, for 2*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*, due for goods supplied.

Joseph George Downing, son of the plaintiff, stated that the defendant had had goods from his mother's business since 1894, and they were supplied to defendant's, his wife's, and the servant's orders. Sometimes defendant paid, and sometimes his wife. Accounts were rendered quarterly, and up to June, 1896, were paid. The goods claimed for were supplied between June and September, 1896. Up to December 28, 1896, he received no notice that he was not to supply goods to defendant's wife's order.

Defendant stated that up to December, 1893, he had no knowledge that his wife was having goods from the plaintiff. His wife had no authority to order the goods, and he had forbidden her to pledge his credit five years ago.

The Deputy-Judge said he was bound to hold the defendant liable. It appeared to him from the plaintiff's books that credit was given to the defendant all along, and not to the wife. A wife, living with her husband, clearly had an implied authority to pledge her husband's credit. He saw nothing in the bill but what might be said to be necessities.

Plymouth Chemists' Association.

At a meeting of this Association on June 28, the Onting Committee reported a balance of 4*l*. in hand after paying all expenses. Two new members were elected.

Cricket.

Stevenson & Howell C.C. v. Allen C.C. (Stafford Allen & Sons).—Played at Brockley on June 11. S. & H. won by 52 runs.

Southwark Home C.C. v. Stevenson & Howell C.C.—Played at Kidbrooke on June 18. S. & H. were beaten by 22 runs.

A match was played at Stockport on June 22 between sides designated "Pills" and "Quills." The "Quills" were badly beaten. The scores were:—"Quills," 116; "Pills," 167 for five wickets (M. Ashcroft 54, W. E. Bond 49, H. Davies 40 (not out), A. Brennan 14).

Drug-contracts.

Mr. W. H. Hammond, 1 Caroline Street, Hull, has been appointed druggist to the Hull Board of Guardians.

The Belper Board of Guardians have accepted the tender of Mr. C. W. Southern, of Belper, for the supply of medicines to the workhouse for the ensuing quarter.

The Dover Corporation have accepted the tender of Mr. A. Lewis Thompson, Snargate, for the ensuing year. Mr. Thompson's offer was the lowest by 2½ per cent.

The Walsall Guardians have accepted the tender of Messrs. G. Elliot & Son for the supply during the ensuing half-year of cod-liver oil at 6*s*. per gal., single trusses at 2*s*. 6*d*., each, and double trusses at 2*s*. 9*d*. each.

The Medway (Kent) Guardians have accepted the tender of Mr. J. A. Chalmers for the supply of Jeyes' fluid at 5*s*. per gal., linseed oil at 2*s*. per gal., Knight & Son's musk-brown Windsor at 2*l*. 13*s*. per cwt., petroleum-soap at 17*l*. per ton, large combs at 1*l*. 16*s*. per gross, small ditto at 1*l*. 10*s*., best ivory ditto at 11*s*. per dozen, brimstone at 10*s*. per cwt., and sweet oil at 3*s*. 1*d*. per gal.

The Supply of Drugs to Workhouses.

At Wellington (Somerset) the Board of Guardians last week discussed a communication from the Local Government Board asking for the Guardians' comments on a letter written to them by Dr. W. H. Date, one of the medical officers of the Union. Dr. Date had contracted with the Guardians to supply all drugs, with the exception of cod-liver oil. Recently he attended a woman for phthisis, and the Guardians refused to supply cod-liver oil to the patient, on the ground that the husband was able to pay for it. He asked the L.G.B. whether the Guardians were within their right, and also whether he could supply cod-liver oil, or only recommend it. The Board decided to reply that they thought the present arrangement, whereby the medical officer had no power but to recommend cod-liver oil, should remain in force.

The Chichester Guardians have been informed that the Government auditor had recommended that the Board should enter into a contract with the medical officer for the supply of drugs. The doctor, Mr. Buckell, stated that he did not supply such things as wadding, bandages, and acids, which were used extensively, as the auditor stopped him from doing so. He did not see that the Board would gain anything by contracting with him. The Clerk said there had been an increase of 20*l*. in the amount paid for drugs during the half-year, and the doctor stated that the articles must be had if the nursing was to be done properly, and that was the reason why their drug-bill had gone up. The matter was referred to the Finance Committee.

Chemists' Excursions.

The annual excursion of the employés of Messrs. Baiss Brothers & Co. took place on Saturday, June 25, at Windsor. After dinner at the Star and Garter the majority of the party drove to Virginia Water, returning to headquarters for tea and an evening's musical programme. The toast of "The Firm," coupled with that of Mr. Welch, who had on this day completed his twenty-fifth year with the firm, was proposed and suitably replied to, after which music and

songs were contributed by a number of gentlemen. The success of the day was largely due to Mr. Salter, the Secretary, who had arranged everything. Conspicuous amongst the guests was Mr. John Clark, who has been connected with the firm for over sixty years, and who very fittingly filled the chair.

The employés of Messrs. Fassett & Johnson had their annual outing on Saturday, June 25. The party journeyed to Broxbourne, where they spent a pleasant time boating, and driving around the surrounding country through Hoddesdon, Stanstead, &c., a short visit being paid to Rye House. Dinner was served at the Five Horseshoes, Hoddesdon, Mr. L. O. Johnson being in the chair. After dinner Mr. F. C. Orange proposed "The health of the Firm" in appropriate terms, and Mr. Johnson responded. Various other toasts were drunk and speeches made, and the rest of the evening was devoted to music and song.

The staff and employés of Messrs. C. J. Hewlett & Son, wholesale druggists, of Charlotte Street, E.C., had their annual excursion on Saturday, June 25, when a large party went to Eastbourne. The morning was spent in visiting Beachy Head and neighbourhood. Dinner was served at the Pier Hotel in first-class style. The toast of "The Firm" was proposed by Mr. S. Hale, and responded to by Mr. E. J. Tucker, the Chairman. In the afternoon an excursion was arranged to Pevensey Castle by brakes, where tea was provided. The return train reached London about 11.30.

By the Sea.

One of the most successful of the many annual outings given by the firm of Messrs. G. B. Kent & Sons, 75 Farringdon Road, E.C., and Victoria Park, E., was that of Saturday last, when over 150 employés went by an early train to Brighton to spend the day by the sea. Accompanied by Mr. G. Harold Kent and Mr. Arthur B. Kent, the visitors travelled by a later train, and on arrival found a four-in-hand waiting to convey them to the Royal Pavilion. At 1.30 the company sat down to dinner in the Banqueting Hall, which was evidently heartily enjoyed. Mr. G. Harold Kent, the senior partner, presided, and was supported by his brother, Mr. Arthur B. Kent, Mr. Ernest N. Kent being unavoidably absent. After the loyal toasts that of "The Firm" was proposed by Mr. Cholmondeley Wood, who spoke in the highest terms of the continued good feeling that existed between the staff and their employés. He congratulated the Messrs. Kent on their increasing business and new accounts opened since their removal to Farringdon Road. "There was no habitable part of the globe," said Mr. Wood, "where Kent's brushes do not penetrate. The Kaffir, the Hottentot, the Fingo of South Africa, and the Red Indian all use the hardest of Kent's eighteenpenny brushes on their woolly pates, while some of the old Kaffir chiefs go as high as half-a-crown." (Laughter.) The chairman returned thanks, and Mr. Arthur B. Kent, in his happiest vein, proposed "The Employés." It was twenty-one years ago since they gave a dinner at the Alexandra Palace, and fifty of the employés present at that function were still in their employ. That was a record of which they had every reason to be proud. Talking of the antiquity of the firm (founded in 1777), a representative of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST called upon them when they inaugurated the factory in Farringdon Road, and in the course of his visit was shown several accounts which were opened before the accession of Queen Victoria. Mr. Benwell, manager of the paint-brush department, suitably replied for the employés. "The Harold Benevolent" (a fund which has been of good service to the employés in time of need) and "The Visitors" were proposed and responded to. The arrangements for the day were ably carried out by Messrs. Tindley and Hawtin. It was mentioned at the dinner that the young ladies employed by Messrs. Kent were merry-making the same day at Southend.

L.C.C. Chemical-contracts.

At the weekly meeting of the L.C.C. on Tuesday, the Main Drainage Committee reported tenders for the supply of 5 550 tons of proto-sulphate of iron (commercial green vitriol) for precipitation-purposes at the Barking and Crossness Outfall Works. Tenders were received from David Matthews, T. Herschel Jones & Co., the Swansea Copperas

Company, John Bevan & Son, W. R. Renshaw & Co., H. Wallace & Co., and Higginbottom & Co. Mr. Matthews's tender was 19s. 6d. per ton, delivered at either Barking or Crossness. The other firms quoted varying prices up to 22s. 6d. The committee reported that the price quoted by Mr. Matthews was 3s. per ton less than that now paid him under the existing contract, and as he had carried out his obligations satisfactorily, they recommended that his tender should be accepted. This was agreed to.

Fire.

Soon after 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning an outbreak of fire occurred on the back premises of Mr. John H. Heap, pharmaceutical chemist, Piccadilly, Hanley. The police were soon in attendance, and with hand-hoses prevented the flames spreading until the arrival of the fire-engines, when the fire was speedily got under. The damage is estimated at from 1,700l. to 2,000l., and is partly covered by insurance. Among the goods destroyed was a ton of cotton-wool. The origin of the fire is not known.

Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Personal.

Mr. W. J. Baxter, pharmaceutical chemist, Coleraine, has been re-elected Chairman of the Town Commissioners of Coleraine.

Mr. Robert Mervyn, who has been for some time with Messrs. Hunt & Co., Dublin, was, on June 25, honoured by his fellow-workers, who, through Mr. Curham, presented him with an interesting souvenir of his connection with the drug-trade.

Company Pharmacy.

The Dublin *Daily Express* has cordially supported the policy of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland in reference to company pharmacy. After explaining the law in the matter the *Express* says:—

Even persons who are not eligible to present themselves at the Society's examinations, and some who have presented themselves and been proved to be unable to pass the examinations, have in this way gone into business. The Pharmaceutical Society feel they have a duty to the public as well as to their own licentiates in this matter, but have no way of overcoming the laches in the law except by fresh legislation. The correspondence shows that it is not merely a pharmaceutical question, but that all professions are exposed to the same evil. That the medical profession realise this the action of the British Medical Association and of the British Medical Council in approaching the Government proves. The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland argues that the evil is at the door of the Board of Trade, for they say, and we think logically, that a "lawful purpose" is the fundamental "requirement" of the Companies Acts, and as unqualified persons cannot carry on a pharmaceutical business it is not a "lawful purpose," but an unlawful one, they are promoting when they seek to be registered as a company. The registrar ignores the question, and the only requirement he recognises is a "form" and a "fee." It is plain, however, that some members of the Society are themselves not free from blame, for these gentlemen have formed companies and keep open shops, but of course they are, under the conditions of the law, not bound to have qualified persons in their employment. The question is of much importance to the public, as well as to the apothecaries and others engaged in the drug-trade.

Clonmel Dispenser's Salary.

The Local Government Board have informed the Clonmel Board of Guardians that they cannot sanction the proposed increase of 25l. in the salary of Mr. Eaton, apothecary of Clonmel dispensary, "as he had accepted the office at his present salary so recently as July, 1897." The dispensary committee had unanimously recommended the increase, full particulars of the discussion appearing in our issue of June 11, page 938.

The Books Booked.

At a meeting last week of the Belfast Corporation a letter was read from Mr. R. W. McKnight, M.P.S.I., local Hon.

Secretary of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, 1898, offering for the reference department of the public library a grant of books on pharmaceutical subjects from the Bell and Hill Fund. The Corporation accepted the offer with thanks on the terms stated in the letter.

Injury to a Chemist.

Last week, at the Newtownards Quarter Sessions, Mr. David Jackson, chemist, Belfast, recovered 50l. damages from James Gallen, steam-roller proprietor, for injuries sustained by plaintiff being thrown from his trap, owing to a collision with a car on March 9 last, and receiving severe bodily injuries. The mishap was occasioned through plaintiff's pony becoming frightened at the defendant's steam-roller, which was getting up steam.

How to check Tenders.

At a meeting of the Fermoy Guardians on June 13, a report was read from Dr. Browne, medical inspector to the Local Government Board, advising the Guardians when entering into drug and medicine contracts to advertise as a basis for calculation the total quantities of each drug procured during the previous twelve months. The report went on to say that the accepted tenders under the present system, while appearing to be much the lowest, were often considerably above the others. It was decided to adopt the suggestion, and the Local Government Board was thanked for the hint.

Scotch News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Golf-competition.

The third competition this season for the "Gibson Handicap Medal" of the Edinburgh District Chemists' Golf Club was played last week over the Braids course, with the following results:—First, A. C. Kirkpatrick, 93, scratch; second, W. C. Baker, 107 less 12 = 95; third, Jas. Scott, 95 plus 6 = 101.

Arbroath C. A. and A. Association.

A meeting of the Arbroath Chemists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association was held in that town on June 27, when a paper on "Quack Medicines" was read by Mr. Bennett, the President.

Accident to a Chemist.

Mr. Walter P. Carr, chemist, Berwick, was on June 20 the victim of a carriage-accident, which was attended with rather serious results. Mr. Carr was driving with a friend when the horse shied, the trap was overturned, and both gentlemen were thrown out. Mr. Carr had his left arm broken and his forehead cut, and was removed to Berwick Infirmary, where he was attended to, and is now progressing satisfactorily.

MR. T. M. FOWKE, second son of the late Mr. T. E. Fowke chemist and druggist, Stafford, and brother of the present proprietor of that old-established Stafford business, has been appointed divisional engineer for the central division of the L. & N.W.R. system.

QUEENSLAND POISONS ACT.—In the Amending Bill to the Poisons Act, which was considered at the last meeting of the Queensland Pharmacy Board, it is not proposed to make any radical alterations in the existing Act, the changes considered essential being:—(a) The handing over of the administration of the Act by the authorities (in general) to the Pharmacy Board (in particular); (b) the restriction of the sale of poisons to doctors and chemists; (c) the issue of certificates to dealers residing in places where no doctor or chemist is practising; (d) the issue of certificates to wholesale dealers, veterinary surgeons, or *bona fide* photographic dealers, even though residing in a town where there is a chemist.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

THE MATCH DIFFICULTY.—White phosphorus is no longer to be used for manufacturing matches in France. Two chemists attached to the State match manufactories appear to have succeeded in making a serviceable article without it, as matches produced by their system have been on sale during the past week or two in Paris, and seem to give satisfaction. It is hoped that the danger to the workpeople, about which there has been so much complaint, will now be avoided.

A HORSE IN A PHARMACY.—In the rue Lafayette, Paris, the other morning a cab horse, frightened by a tramway horse, bolted, and, the driver being off his box, got well away, but only to be stopped a few moments later by galloping at full tilt into the plate-glass window of M. Oberlin's pharmacy at 17 rue Cadet. The poor animal penetrated half way through the glass, causing great havoc, but the damage to itself was so great that it had to be poleaxed. Fortunately no one in the pharmacy was hurt.

PERSONAL ITEMS.—President Félix Faure paid a graceful tribute to pharmacy last week by decorating M. Alfred Lamouroux with the Legion of Honour. The occasion was the reopening of the Carnaval Museum, in which relics of old Paris are collected. M. Lamouroux is now a municipal councillor, but in his more serious moments he is a pharmacist. He took his diploma in the early sixties, passed as M.D. in 1865, and the following year set up as a pharmacist in the rue de Rivoli, Paris. He acted as an army surgeon during the war of 1870, and rendered valuable service at the battle of Montretout. He is still under 50, and is a vice-president of the committee for preserving souvenirs of old Paris.—The Paris Chamber of Commerce has elected as its Vice-President Dr. Fumouze, a well-known pharmacist here.—M. Nitot, a pharmacist, has been named a judge of the Tribunal of Commerce.—M. Geo. Dethan, assistant to Professor Planchon in the department of materia medica at the Paris School of Pharmacy, intends to spend his summer holiday in England, and principally in studying at Kew Gardens. His object is to inspect certain rare plants which are not to be found in Paris.

A BIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—The gift of 2,000,000*f.* (80,000*l.*) made by Baroness Hirsch some time ago to the Pasteur Institute, or rather about two-thirds of it, is to be devoted to building and fitting up a large model biological institute in the rue Dutot, Paris, opposite the Pasteur Institute. The interest of the balance of the money will be devoted to working-expenses, though additional money will be required for the latter purpose. The ground on which the new building is to be erected was left as a legacy to the Pasteur Institute by another lady a few years ago. The plans for the Biological Institute have been drawn up by the directors and professors of the parent establishment with the aid of their architect. A hospital will be attached to it where patients attacked by maladies to which Dr. Roux gives special attention will be treated. M. Duclaux will be the director of the new Institute, in addition to that bearing Pasteur's name, while the laboratories of biological chemistry will be under the care of M. Gabriel Bertrand. It is hoped to have the building ready by 1900, and most likely the lectures, &c., connected with biology will in due course be transferred to the rue Dutot from the Sorbonne.

THE PARIS EXCISE LABORATORIES.—By a recent decree the French Minister of Finance has nominated MM. Berthelot, Troost, Friedel, and Schloësing, the well-known chemists, also Professors Jungfleisch and Riche, of the Paris School of Pharmacy, as members of the consulting committee of the Paris Excise Chemical Laboratories. These form a department of the Ministry of Finances, and exist, as the name indicates, for controlling the Excise dues. Their principal business is perhaps the analysis of sugar, the beetroot-sugar industry being a very important one in France. Alcohol is also analysed in considerable quantities, and everything else liable to Inland Revenue dues is tested at the laboratories. For a number of years this department was very severe with medicated wines, and a great deal of litigation

was the result. The Pharmacie Centrale de France took a leading part in this, and since 1894 has obtained seven favourable judgments regarding some forty-five different medicated wines and other preparations. The advent of the above-mentioned gentlemen as members of the consulting committee is hailed with satisfaction by pharmacists here, as none better than they can rightly decide what is a medicinal compound.

FREE BREAD WITH THE PHYSIC.—There was a certain ingenuity about the method adopted by M. Tambareau, a pharmacist of Oran, in the French colony of Algeria, when he had the idea of giving every customer who came with a prescription from the Out-door Relief Office of the town a pound of bread in addition to the medicaments ordered on the recipe. But the other local pharmacists complained that this was unfair competition, and the municipal authorities found there was a marked disposition on the part of the indigent poor to plead an ailment, when all they wanted was free bread. So it came about that the municipal doctors received instructions to indicate the names of the various pharmacists of the town in rotation on their prescriptions, and, if necessary (this must have been when the patients looked particularly hungry), to send a policeman with the patient to see that, in a moment of absent-mindedness, he did not go to M. Tambareau's pharmacy by mistake. But the latter brought an action against the municipality on the ground that every trader has the right to use such way of advertising as he may choose, providing it is legal, and won his case, no clause in the contract between the pharmacists and the town existing to the effect that any particular pharmacy would be indicated on the prescriptions. The supply of medicaments to the poor having been arranged between the pharmacists' syndicate of Oran and the Relief Office for three years, the contract became renewable last April, with the result that the bread-giving pharmacien was excluded from the arrangement, on the plea that since the innovation of his philanthropy the number of medical consultations had quintupled, with a corresponding increase in the cost of drugs and medicines to the town. M. Tambareau does not, however, yet consider himself beaten, and he is commencing a second law-suit against the municipality. This time his contention is that he offered to supply medicaments to the poor at more than 50 per cent. lower rates than those tendered by the pharmacists' syndicate. This, he says, would mean a reduction in cost of 15,000*f.* (600*l.*) to the town, while he also states that the fixed prices allowed to be charged by the syndicate for supplying the poor are in some instances higher than would be asked from private individuals.

Colonial and Foreign News.

OLIVE OIL IN CALIFORNIA.—A great increase has lately been made in the olive acreage of Southern California. Reports say that there is more than enough olive product to supply the Pacific Coast, and unless an Eastern demand can be created ruin stares the olive-growers in the face. A single packing company in Los Angeles, which has just completed its season's work, has manufactured 3,000 gals. of olive oil and pickled 1,000 barrels of olives.

MARSEILLES OIL.—It is rather significant that Marseilles is importing more and more cotton-seed oil from the United States. In 1895 a little over 10,000,000 kilos. was imported, in 1896 the quantity a little more than doubled, and in 1897 42,000,000 kilos. was imported, while other countries furnished 49,000,000 kilos. of cotton-seed oil. Yet there are some people in this country and elsewhere who imagine they can buy the pure olive oil at 5*s.* per gallon.

CHINESE ALBUMEN.—The manufacture of albumen for export was started in Hankow last year by three firms, one Austrian and two German. The competition is likely to become keen and profits small. Several kinds of albumen are produced, the best for photography, the second for use in dietetics, and the inferior for cotton-printing. A preparation of the yolk is used for polishing leather, &c. One firm alone uses between 30,000 and 40,000 eggs a day during the two months the season lasts.

ST. LOUIS DRUG-TRADE.—The British Consul at Chicago in his last report mentions that St. Louis, Mo., is one of the largest drug-distributing centres in the United States. Business in chemicals, essential oils, patent and proprietary medicines, and druggists' sundries amounting to 5 000 000*l.* was done in it during 1897, one of the establishments being the largest of the class in this country [Meyer Brothers.—*Ed. C. & D.*]. The business is reported to have increased in 1897 from 15 to 20 per cent.

OPIUM-CULTIVATION IN INDIA.—A report of the Opium Department of the Bengal Government for 1896-97 records a large increase in the cultivation of the poppy in the Benares district, apparently due to the necessitous condition of the cultivators, and the efforts of the officials, who were anxious to obtain a yield sufficient for excise requirements and a reserve stock. The poorness of the season, however, frustrated the hopes of a good outturn. In connection with the operations of the Opium Department the report states that the Malwa opium, purchased by the Bengal Government for excise purposes, was both cheaper and of better quality than in previous years.

CANADIAN TARIFF.—We are asked by the High Commissioner for Canada to state that the rebate of 25 per cent. off the duties on certain articles, the growth, produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, imported into Canada comes into operation on July 1 next, and not August 1 as stated in a paragraph recently circulated. The reduction will apply also to similar imports from the foreign countries entitled to the reciprocal tariff under most-favoured-nation treaties from July 1 to July 31. On and after August 1, however, the rebate will be confined to goods, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the United Kingdom, and of the British colonies and possessions entitled to the benefits of the preferential tariff.

IMPORTS OF POISONS INTO RUSSIA.—The Customs Department of the Russian Empire has recently published a list of medicinal substances of a poisonous nature which can only be imported when they are labelled in a manner provided by the law of the Empire. The list comprises four parts, A, B, C, and D, which are poisons of varying degrees of toxicity—*e.g.*, A includes such substances as aconitine, amylen hydrate, apomorphine, atropine, and other poisonous alkaloids, arsenical compounds, and so on, which must be clearly labelled with the name of the article, name of the manufacturer, where produced, and can only be imported on the order of a pharmacist or physician. In list B we observe bromine, hydroquinone, gamboge, iodine, &c. List C is one of comparatively harmless drugs, such as narcotics and stimulating-medicines chiefly. List D is a milder lot and shorter list, consisting chiefly of herbs and so on.

THE SALE OF GERMAN PHARMACIES is ever a fruitful topic to our contemporaries in the fatherland, especially those which represent the lower or druggist class, and the "awful examples" of the iniquities of concessions (German for monopolies) look overwhelming when expressed in marks (1*m.* = 11*½**d.*). The following are recent business changes:—Herr W. has sold to Herr G. his apotheke for 300,000*m.*; three years ago he bought it for 240,000*m.* from a man who five years earlier bought it for 200,000*m.* Herr S. bought a pharmacy 3½ years since for 150,000*m.*, and has just sold it for 175,000*m.* Another apotheke has found the value of his go up from 115,000*m.* to 150,000*m.*, but a less fortunate individual who has held a concession to which an antiquated house is attached has been content to sell for 130,000*m.* what he bought five years ago for 145,000*m.*; but the balance is struck by an apotheke elsewhere in the fatherland selling his birthright for 240,000*m.* and a yearly "recognition" of 1,200*m.* If these German pharmacies were conducted on go-ahead store principles, there would be no reason for surprise at the increased values, but they are so slow that the druggists' papers point to the increased values as something iniquitous.

EAST AFRICAN PHARMACY.—Mr. W. Bowen in a recent issue of the *Spatula* describes pharmacy as he has found it in the Dark Continent. At Delagoa Bay, which is a Portuguese possession, no foreigner is allowed to practise as a pharmacist unless his diploma has been examined in Lisbon and a licence received. There are four pharmacies there, all kept by Portuguese subjects. Drugs are imported by way of Natal or Bombay, and are either of English or German

origin. But there is little direct importation done either from England or Germany. The proprietors or managers of these pharmacies style themselves pharmaceutical chemists, and do a fair business—no prescription, no matter how small or common the ingredients composing it, being charged less than half a dollar. French patent medicines for general use and demand take first rank, then come English and American, but the mainstay of the Delagoa pharmacists is the large business done with the shipping in the harbour, and with travellers to and from Johannesburg. At Blantyre, the capital of British Central Africa, and at Zanza, the seat of government, there is not a single pharmacy. The stores keep the best known and most generally used patent medicines and a selection of the ordinary drugs. Every missionary, planter, and trader, however, carries his medicine-chest or pocket-case filled with Burroughs, Wellcome & Co.'s tabloids. The illness most common to European settlers is the hæmaturia or black-water fever, which in most cases proves fatal.

AMERICAN S.C.I.—At the last meeting of the session, on May 20, Professor Coblenz read a paper on "The Newer Remedies," in which he adopted the following classification:—

I. Antipyretics, subdivided as follows into derivatives of (1) acetylated amines, as acetanilid, &c.; (2) parphenetidins, as phenacetine, &c.; (3) diazo compounds, as hydracetins, &c.; (4) pyroæzolin, as antipyrine, &c.; (5) quinolines, as loretin, &c.; (6) urethanes, as euphorin.

II. Anæsthetics, subdivided into (1) compounds producing total anæsthesia, as chlormethane, &c.; (2) compounds producing local anæsthesia by the cold of evaporation, as methyl chloride; (3) local anæsthetics, as cocaine, eucaine.

III. Mydriatics derived from tropine bases, as euphthalmine.

IV. Antiseptics, including (1) aldehyde and derivatives, as formalin, &c.; (2) phenol derivatives; (3) naphthol derivatives; (4) quinoline derivatives; (5) ichthyol derivatives and mineral-oil compounds; (6) inorganic antiseptics, as silver compounds and compounds of earths.

V. Hypnotics and anodynes.

VI. Uric-acid solvents.

VII. Tonic organic compounds containing iron.

VIII. Animal extracts and their derivatives.

Other papers were read, and one paper bearing the title "The Distillation and Maturation of Fine Whiskies, as Viewed from a Chemical Standpoint," was, on the suggestion of Mr. E. H. Gane, taken as read and sampling of the specimens proceeded with.

Tunbridge Wells and District Chemists' Association.

At a general meeting held on June 23 (thirteen members present), letters were read from local members of Parliament in reference to the progress of the Pharmacy Bill, and replies from medical men to the Association's circular proposing to date the general adoption of the new B.P. from June 24. A paper by Mr. Gower was next read advocating that the Association should communicate with proprietors of articles the retail price for which was not protected, stating the intention of members to rigorously discourage the sale of such goods. Ultimately a resolution was passed promising to support the P.A.T.A. in bringing influence to bear on the proprietors of those articles of which the retail prices are not protected, and to encourage the sale of protected preparations.

Early closing was next brought forward by Mr. Stanley Smith, but one proposal after another fell through till the "early" hour of 9 was finally agreed upon for general closing, Saturdays excepted.

Mr. Aldridge submitted some useful notes on some of the new B.P. preparations, and the President remarked on the new Poisons Bill, but the discussion of this was deferred.

JAVA QUININE.—There is a factory in Paroeng Kolda which turns out over 1 000 lbs. of quinine sulphate per month—perhaps not an astonishing quantity, but it is a quiet little place, and the manufacturers work without fuss. (2/8/38)

South African News.

(From our own Correspondents.)

A PROBABLE NEW VOLATILE ALKALOID.—In his report for 1897 the senior Cape analyst gives some particulars of a sample root which was used by a "Kaffir" doctor and was alleged to have poisoned a native woman. The Government botanist declared it to be derived from a species of pelargonium, and the analyst made both physiological and chemical experiments. To taste the drug seemed not unlike Cayenne pepper, and it had a similar effect on the nose. No toxic principle could be found, however, other than a light-yellow volatile oil, which is driven off on heating the powdered root. There was too little of it to allow its nature being fully investigated, but it gave a basic reaction with litmus, and was precipitated by alkaloidal precipitants. It is a pity the investigation was not carried further, but this note may take some pharmaceutical chemist in a new line of work.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN INDUSTRIAL AND ARTS EXHIBITION, to be held at Grahamstown, Cape of Good Hope, from December 15, 1898, to January 21, 1899, will give a good opportunity for manufacturers to introduce their specialities to the African consumer. All the South African States, with the exception of the Transvaal, are interested, and the heads of the various States have consented to take an active part in the management. Sir Alfred Milner will act as President. The fiasco which occurred at the Kimberly Exhibition is not likely to be repeated under the management of the Grahamstown one. The following are some of the departments into which druggists' goods are to be classified:—

Section 3, class 32.—Curry-powder, sauces, pickles, chutney, mustard, arrowroot, &c.

Section 3, class 36.—Natural and artificial mineral and aerated waters.

Section 4, class 41b.—Drugs, chemicals, essences, essential oils, and perfumery.

The British agents of the Exhibition are:—Messrs. William Savage & Sons (of Port Elizabeth), Blomfield House, London Wall, E.C., from whom full information is to be obtained. Goods in transit are admitted free of duty, and the conveyance from the coast to the Exhibition is undertaken by the Government without charge.

THE MEDICAL AND PHARMACY BILL to amend certain sections of the Cape Medical and Pharmacy Act, 1891, is an interesting piece of literature to us at this end. One clause (xvi.) contains the following passage:—"Every patent or proprietary medicine intended for human use shall bear upon the bottle, case, or other package immediately containing such medicines a true and exact statement setting forth the nature and quantity of each ingredient contained in such medicine, and any person selling or keeping for sale any such medicine not so labelled shall be liable, upon conviction, to a penalty not exceeding 50*l.*, and, in default of payment, to six months' imprisonment with or without hard labour." It follows from this that, *e.g.*, a box of Beecham's pills, should the medical men of the Cape peninsula succeed in getting this section of the Bill made law, will have to bear the formula from which the pill is compounded. Not altogether a pleasant look-out for patent and secret medicine proprietors. But there is no immediate possibility of the pro-medical departure becoming law. In their own interests Cape chemists may be relied on to protest, and very strongly too, against such interference on the part of the medical men, who, it is stated, are responsible for the appearance of the Bill. The members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Cape Colony, at a special meeting convened for the purpose of discussing the Bill on June 6, unanimously decided to appoint a deputation to wait on the Colonial Secretary, and to strenuously oppose the section of the Bill which would permit medical men opening shops within the five-mile radius of the nearest registered chemist and druggist as laid down in section 5 of the 1898 Act. Should the deputation fail, it was decided to wire to provincial members of the Society to communicate with their members of Parliament asking them to vote against the Bill. [The dissolution of the Cape Parliament has no doubt put an end to this curious measure.—*Ed. C. & D.*]

Australasian News.

LADY PHARMACISTS.—At a special meeting of the New South Wales Pharmacy Board, on April 7, seven applications from women claiming registration as assistants were considered, but only one was granted. This was that of Mrs. Caroline Cross, of Darlington, who had been in business for several years prior to the passing of the Act. Four were from wives of pharmacists, but the claims put forward in each case were rejected by the adamant Board.

DIPHTHERIA IN MELBOURNE.—The Melbourne City Council have arranged with the Melbourne Hospital that where a case of diphtheria occurs in a family ordinarily suitable for hospital treatment every member of the family shall be treated at the hospital with antitoxin at the charge of the city. The hospital has agreed to do this for 3*s.* 6*d.* The pathological laboratory at the Melbourne University also undertakes to examine swabbings from the patients' throats, to determine in doubtful cases whether diphtheria-bacillus is present.

VICTORIA PHARMACY BOARD.—The annual report of the Board has just been issued. It refers to the poison prosecutions, and contains embodied in it the report of the Government Examination Inspector, Dr. Shields, who states that the examinations are conducted with care and thoroughness. There were 87 candidates for the Preliminary in 1897, against 93 in 1896 and 148 in 1895. The passes were respectively 42, 41 and 71. For the Final examination the entries were 30 in 1897, 28 in 1896, and 29 in 1895, the passes being 18, 18 and 16. The average registrations for the years 1893-97 were 22.2. The gross receipts of the Board in 1897 were 535*l.* 2*s.*, and the expenditure 538*l.* 18*s.*

INDECENT ADVERTISEMENTS ACT.—South Australia passed an Act last year similar to our own Indecent Advertisements Act, but more extended. An indecent advertisement is defined as including "drawing, picture, or written or printed matter of an indecent, immoral, or obscene nature, or which relates to venereal or contagious diseases affecting the generative organs or functions, or to any complaint or infirmity arising from or relating to sexual intercourse, or which relates to female irregularities," and the exhibition, distribution, or publication of such is made penal, while the Post Office is also empowered to destroy anything of the same nature passing through the post. It is stated that some well-known proprietary medicines may be affected by this Act.

MELBOURNE POISONING-CASE.—On May 19, the case of J. W. Christopher came on for hearing at the Melbourne Criminal Court. The case, a charge of manslaughter, is the sequel of the inquest reported in the *C. & D.*, April 16, page 608, and May 14, page 786. The accused, it will be remembered, supplied sulphate of atropine in place of sulphate of morphine, which mistake was said to have caused the death of Dr. Williams. Evidence of a similar kind to that given at the inquest was tendered. For the defence it was contended that the Crown failed to prove that the deceased died of atropine-poisoning or, if it was so caused, that the atropine was supplied by the accused. Dr. Williams had been in the habit of using poisonous drugs, and the symptoms were consistent with cocaine-poisoning. If a mistake had been made it did not amount to such negligence as would justify a verdict of manslaughter—they would have to find gross negligence. The Judge pointed out that the cause of death was asphyxia, which might have been caused by an alkaloidal poison, but there was nothing to show the nature of the alkaloid. Both cocaine and atropine were alkaloids; if death was due to cocaine the accused was innocent. The doctors said the symptoms pointed to cocaine as much as to atropine. Even if death had been caused by atropine the prisoner was not guilty unless it could be shown that he was culpably careless; a mere mistake in business would not justify conviction. After half an hour's deliberation the jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and the prisoner was discharged. It transpired that the jury argued that as the deceased was in the habit of injecting morphia he would have used at least $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. of atropine, supposing he had mistaken that poison for morphia, and that quantity would have killed him much quicker than the evidence showed.

Chemists' Assistants' Union.

A PRACTICAL result of the correspondence which has taken place in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST was evidenced on June 23, when a meeting of about forty chemists' assistants was held at the Horseshoe Hotel, Tottenham Court Road, with the idea of forming a union. The C. & D. man was admitted on the understanding that he should not at present name any of the speakers. A Chairman was appointed, who said that he and a friend had written and talked with many brother pill-punchers on the subject for which they had met, and he thought it was time something practical was done to further the interest of the chemist's assistant without running counter to the interests of his master. An assistant goes from the North of Scotland to situations in the South of England with but the faintest idea of what sort of business or kind of man he is going to—information on these subjects, when asked for by him, being resented as an impertinence. On the other hand, the assistant must furnish the most minute particulars of his character and career (besides his qualifications and skill), and then he may get the remuneration of a bricklayer, whose character is a secondary consideration to his ability to lay bricks. Moreover, the bricklayer can go to his association, find out what kind of work he is going to, get a fair wage, and (by means of his union) can rely upon having his grievances redressed. He was not speaking against employers generally, as the majority were good fellows, but there were many black sheep, whom it was desirable assistants should be warned against. Their present associations confined themselves too much to "science and sociality," and were of no value in general trade-matters. Having thus struck a key-note, the Chairman called upon his friend, who, he said, had a scheme which he had roughly drafted for their consideration.

THE MAN AND THE SCHEME.

The Chairman's friend was an earnest and thoughtful looking gentleman with a good address. He had read with absorbing interest, he said, and had likewise taken part in the discussion which had taken place in the correspondence columns of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and this scheme of his was merely an attempt to reduce the discussion to a practical result. He had thought a good deal on the subject for years, and had lost no opportunity of writing and speaking on the question, and in connection with this meeting (which he had been instrumental in calling) he had a number of letters from various parts of the country showing the desire and the necessity for such a combination as they were striving for. He read one such letter as a sample. His scheme was roughly to have a register of employers kept for the use of members of the Union. In this register would be recorded as faithfully as possible the character of the employer and of his business, so that the assistant from Aberdeen might write to the Secretary and obtain information as to the nature of the situation for which he was applying in London or Brighton. A schedule of questions concerning the berths in which he had served would be submitted to each member on his joining the Union. The answers to these would be filed, and any additional remarks made by such members would be welcomed. The information thus obtained would be for the use of members of the Union only, and would prevent many chemists' assistants from being misled by goodly-seeming vacancies. The Union would also become the medium for adjusting the disputes which arise between master and man. He would suggest that the Union be formed on the lines of the P.A.T.A., with centres all over the country and local secretaries to carry out the instructions of the central executive. The Union would be composed of a President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and a council of not fewer than fourteen members. He deprecated strongly any friction between the Union and the C.A.A. or any provincial association, and although he hoped questions of science and general education might arise, his idea was that it should be specially for trade-purposes and for lessening bad feeling. Rules should be drawn up by the executive and submitted to an ordinary meeting. He suggested that a subscription of 5s. a year from each member would suffice. In addition an

inquiry-fee of 1s. for every inquiry answered would help to cover secretarial expenses. The Union must be formed entirely of men of good character, for they wished to have influence, and there could be no greater influence than that of respectability. One of their rules should, therefore, be that any member whose conduct did not come within the code of respectability should be dismissed. Should the Union be made strong and successful, the possibilities were infinite. Club-rooms might be obtained where country assistants might meet and discuss things in general. In conclusion, he proposed—

That this meeting of chemists' assistants is of opinion that an assistants' union is both desirable and necessary, and that the formation of such a union be initiated forthwith.

This proposal was promptly seconded by a gentleman who had been waiting twenty years for the establishment of such an institution and considered the time now fully ripe. Several speakers supported the motion in more or less eloquent terms. The cosmopolitan character of the gathering was indicated by the accents of the speakers. One retained the musical tones of the sister island; another confessed he was a native of the Principality; and a third (in very good English) regretted that he was unable to express all he felt on the subject, because he was a foreigner.

The inevitable element of discord was supplied by two representatives of a more or less kindred association. These gentlemen threw cold water on the scheme in a very able and forcible manner. They were in nowise directly opposed to the formation of such a union as this, but they considered it was a waste of valuable time. The idea was impracticable for various reasons. In the first place, to whom did the term "chemists' assistants" refer? Were the assistants to be qualified or unqualified, or both; and were errand-boys to be included? Errand-boys and porters were chemists' assistants as much as qualified men. Dissentient No. 1 asked whom they were going to unite against? The general trade-union programme was "More pay and less work." Both of these claims in the present state of trade were unfair and unjust. He heard a man say the other day that he believed not 50 per cent. of the chemists in business were solvent. He knew for a fact that many did half a day's work for nothing to advertise the other half. Therefore more pay was out of the question and the hours of labour must vary in different districts. Again, the power of a trade-union is absolutely valueless unless it contains at least 67 per cent. of those in the trade, and how is the support of that 67 per cent. to be obtained while assistants go on seling them-selves to bogus companies? The only valuable object of the Union, in his opinion, would be the prevention of company-pharmacy. He proposed, as an amendment—

That this meeting, on reconsidering the matter, regrets that a union such as has been proposed is impracticable, and ought not to be proceeded with.

The amendment was seconded, and produced a further flow of eloquence, some of which took high flights, followed by denunciatory perorations. The gentleman from Wales amused the company by the directness of his hits and his quaint modes of expression. He condemned the spirit of opposition which brought forward objections which, he considered, were merely superficial. He was particularly strong on the "impudent" questions which masters ask when assistants apply for situations, such as "What chapel or church do you attend?" and "Are you a teetotaler?" Supposing assistants retaliated, and made inquiries as to whether ham and eggs were supplied for breakfast, whether champagne was supplied for dinner, and whether each one was to have a bedroom for himself.

Ultimately a vote was taken, and the motion was carried by 18 votes to 8. Twenty-one names were then handed in as those of persons willing to form a union, and it was resolved that a meeting be held that day fortnight to elect an executive. The gentleman who is the father of the scheme was appointed Secretary *pro tem.*, and after thanking that gentleman and the Chairman for presiding, and subscribing a sum sufficient to cover incidental expenses, the meeting adjourned.

THE IMPORTATION OF RAW SULPHUR into Marseilles shows a large increase, 39,940 tons in 1897 against 25,175 tons in 1896.

Westminster Wisdom.

THE POISONOUS SUBSTANCES BILL.

A scant little ten minutes last Friday afternoon sufficed for the second reading in the House of Lords of the Bill drafted by the Privy Council to reverse the principle of the Pharmacy Act. The House was in session for thirty-five minutes that day, but the only articulate part of their proceedings was the speech of the Duke of Devonshire in explanation of his Bill. He began and ended his remarks by the observation that he did not expect much from legislation in the way of prevention of accidental poisonings; suicides he seemed to regard as a course of nature which it would be unreasonable to interfere with. He gave the impression that the Privy Council would have preferred to let things go on as they were going, but they were bothered by juries' verdicts, and it was on the whole less trouble to bring in a Bill than to keep on acknowledging these presentments. The Duke is not a persuasive orator, but he somehow says what there is to say, and he managed to make his measure seem a merely formal necessity. The Government wanted to provide some precaution against accidental poisoning, and it was necessary to do this with the least possible inconvenience to the public, while a trade monopoly was out of the question. As for the second part of the Bill, it was introduced because the Pharmaceutical Society had "for some reason or another" neglected to provide the necessary precautions, and the Privy Council asked for power to act independently. There were some thirty or forty peers scattered about the red benches, and a few of them interrupted their reveries or their conversations when the Duke stopped talking; there was a little mumbling at the table, and then some other Bill was pushed on in the same perfunctory fashion. Those of us who think that legislation is a somewhat serious matter may well be thankful that we have a House of Commons and a Dr. Tanner.

THE DUKE'S SPEECH.

In the House of Lords on Friday, June 24,

The Duke of Devonshire (Lord President of the Council) moved the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Act for Regulating the Sale of Certain Poisonous Substances." The noble lord said: My Lords, the object of this Bill is to give to the public some protection against the indiscriminate sale of poisons beyond that which is already provided for by the Pharmacy Acts. There are certain poisons, which are included in the first schedule under those Acts, which impose certain restrictions—as to labelling and in other respects—on the sale of these poisons; but the principal restriction the Pharmacy Acts impose is where the sale is limited to persons registered under the Pharmaceutical Society. It was thought that the list of poisons in the schedule might be extended by the Privy Council, on the recommendation of the Pharmaceutical Society, and repeated applications have been made to the Privy Council to include under the Pharmacy Acts certain other articles which are enumerated in the schedule to this Bill. For instance, carbolic acid, which is largely used by many people as a disinfectant, is the principal one. But the Privy Council have always declined to include these articles in the schedule to the Pharmacy Acts upon two grounds—first, the ground of the inconvenience to which the public would be exposed if any additional difficulty were imposed in the way of obtaining these extremely necessary articles; and, secondly, on the ground of the dislocation of trade which would be caused if the sale of these articles were placed in the hands of what is virtually a trade monopoly. On the other hand, the Privy Council have received repeated recommendations from coroners' juries to the effect that some additional precautions should be afforded against the indiscriminate sale of these articles. It is not pretended that legislation by this Bill, or any legislation, can very largely diminish the number of deaths which annually take place in consequence of these articles. Out of 579 deaths which took place in the years 1895 and 1896—which

are the most recent statistics available—by the use of articles in the schedule of this Bill, only 111 were due to accidental or general causes, 468 being cases of suicide. Of course, it is not contended that any restrictions which can be imposed will deter persons who are determined to take their own lives. But of those 111 cases of accidental death by these poisons, 29 were cases of children under 10 years of age. I think your Lordships will agree with me that whatever protection can be given ought to be given against such accidental use of these poisons. The present Bill is the result of those representations to which I have referred, and in regard to these articles it is confined to placing the sale of the substances included in the schedule to this Bill, and which are not included in the schedule of the Pharmacy Act, under certain restrictions as to labelling; and, in the next place, to giving the Privy Council the power of adding to or removing certain articles from the schedule. The Bill also contains certain amendments to the Pharmacy Act itself. That Act has not been altogether effectual in preventing accidental deaths from the use of poisons included in the schedule to it, for, out of 786 deaths which took place in the years which I have referred to, caused by the use of poisons included in the schedule of the Pharmacy Act, exactly one-half were cases of accident, the other half being cases of suicide; there were 393 cases of suicide by these poisons, and there were 393 cases of accidental death. The Pharmaceutical Society have power to make further regulations as to the use of these poisons, but for some reason or other up to this time they have neglected to do so; and the second clause of this Bill provides that the Privy Council may make such regulations independently of the Pharmaceutical Society. These are the objects of this Bill, and, as I have said, while we cannot hope that it will cause any great diminution in the number of deaths which take place owing to the use of these poisons, I think your Lordships will agree that so far as possible the number of accidents caused by them ought to be restricted.

The Bill was then read a second time without discussion.

PASSES THROUGH COMMITTEE.

In the House of Lords on Monday, June 27,

The Duke of Devonshire moved that the House go into Committee on the Bill for Regulating the Sale of Certain Poisonous Substances.

There were no amendments offered, and

The Earl of Morley (Chairman of Committees), on the resumption of the House, reported the Bill without amendments.

On the motion of the Duke of Devonshire, the report was received.

The Bill was afterwards re-committed to the Standing Committee, and has been considered there. It was reported to the House of Lords on Tuesday last without amendment. It is set down for third reading on Friday (July 1).

THE PHARMACY ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

The Earl of Hardwicke is to move the second reading of this Bill on Thursday next, July 7.

THE FLASH-POINT.

When the Petroleum Committee met on Friday last two of its members Mr. Harold Reckitt and Mr. Compton Rickett, wheeled round from Mr. Jesse Collings's view to that of Mr. Alexander Ure, and voted in favour of raising the flash-point from 73° to 100°. Mr. Tully, who was absent when the vote was taken the week before, now appeared, and also voted with Mr. Ure. Consequently, and unless somebody else changes his mind, the Committee may be expected to recommend to Parliament that the Petroleum Act shall be amended by making "oil to which the Act refers" all mineral oil which flashes in a closed (Abel) vessel at 100° F. instead of 73° as now. This decision was arrived at by eight votes to six, and as the Committee is so nearly divided (Mr. Collings, being Chairman, did not vote), it is probable that Parliament may compromise the flash-point by adopting 85° or 90°. That this would tend to prevent some accidents we do not doubt; but it is doubtful if anything like safety will be attained unless some way of ensuring properly constructed lamps can also be devised. This the Committee may also recommend. It is also likely to suggest that the quantity of petroleum spirit which may be kept without a licence may be raised from 3 gals. to 5 gals.

The Poisonous Substances Bill.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Cambridge Pharmaceutical Association was held on June 24, at the Prince of Wales Hotel, to discuss this Bill and the Companies Amendment Act. Mr. A. Sidney Campkin J.P., presided, and pointed out the objections to the Poisons Bill, which he thought had been framed without sufficient reference to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society. His contention was that in the interests and for the safety of the public the sale of poisons should be restricted exclusively to qualified persons, who by training and experience were best able to form an opinion as to whom and under what conditions a sale should be made. Much discretion of this kind was exercised. It was by observance of the regulations as to registration that a recent poisoning case had been traced. That would not probably have been the case if the sale had not been in the hands of a chemist who knew and felt the responsibility in the sale. He suggested that a resolution should be adopted calling attention to the danger to the public if the new regulations became law, and submitted a proposition, which was discussed in detail.

Mr. W. L. White fully concurred. He also thought that there appeared a risk of the Act of 1868 and the new one under discussion coming into conflict with each other, relating particularly to the use of strychnine and arsenic in vermin-poisons. He thought the resolution should be sent in the first instance to the Pharmaceutical Society.

These views were supported by Mr. Parsons, Mr. Addison, Mr. Saville Peck, Mr. McAvoy, and Mr. H. F. Cook.

Eventually it was agreed unanimously—

That the attention of the Pharmaceutical Council be called to the provisions of clauses 1 and 2 of the Act for regulating the sale of certain poisonous substances, and to suggest that the Act may be so amended as to provide that no person other than those qualified or registered under the Act of 1868 shall sell any poisons scheduled under the Act, and that the proposed new schedule should be added to schedule 2 of the Act of 1868.

The Chairman then introduced the subject of the Companies Bill now before Parliament, and submitted the annexed motion upon the lines of the petition drafted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland:—

That this Association urges that a clause should be inserted in the Companies Bill now before Parliament to provide that no company may be registered to do acts for which a course of education, training, and examination is required by Act of Parliament as a qualification, unless each member of such company is qualified under such Act.

Mr. Parsons seconded this motion, which was supported by Mr. C. S. Addison, and others and carried unanimously.

It was agreed that both resolutions should be forwarded to the Pharmaceutical Society, with a request that attention would be given to them at the earliest opportunity.

It was agreed to close on Thursday afternoons during the summer months at 2 P.M., and a trip to Hunstanton on Thursday, July 7, was voted for, arrangements being left to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. B. Sidney Campkin.

* * * *

A special meeting of the North-East Lancashire Chemists' Association was held at Blackburn on June 28 to protest against the Government Poisonous Substances Bill. Mr. Thomas Critchley presided. Mr. R. Lord Gifford, the Hon. Secretary, in opening the discussion, said the committee were of opinion that the conditions under which chemists labour had become almost intolerable, and the Poisonous Substances Bill had brought matters to such a pitch that the committee demanded that the whole position should be reviewed. Mr. Gifford therefore traced the history of pharmacy legislation. Parliament had decided thirty years ago that poisonous substances should be distributed and dispensed by properly-trained men. It was an understanding, he maintained, that a higher class of pharmacists was to be created, and the Pharmaceutical Society had done their part towards accomplishing this object. But, on the other side, the duties and professional work of chemists were to be extended at an equal pace. This part of the contract had not been carried out. Chemists had obtained practically no

privilege since 1868, and had, indeed, lost what they had. It probably was no exaggeration to say that not more than 1,000 chemists obtain a livelihood by their profession—the other 15,000 obtain a living, more or less, in spite of their qualification. Would the Legislature, he asked, dream of making it possible for the reporter there to become a chemist by the simple process of calling his wife and five children together and making his hearth a registered office? Yet that is what he can do. He can blossom forth as "Reporter (Limited), Cash Chemist," and our wise Judges have made this possible.

Mr. Taylor (Bolton) then submitted the following resolution:—

That this meeting of chemists and druggists, whilst of opinion that it is necessary to provide some regulations as to the sale of the articles named in the Government Poisonous Substances Bill, regards that Bill as inadequate for the purpose and ambiguous in its details. This meeting is also of opinion that the Bill constitutes a dangerous departure from the principles of the Pharmacy Act of 1868, and calls upon the Pharmaceutical Council to strongly oppose the Bill.

Before speaking strictly to the resolution, he should like to say that they, as pharmacists, whilst claiming that the law should be strictly enforced with regard to the sale of poisons, should also be careful to observe the law themselves. No temptation should prompt them to deviate in the slightest degree from the strict letter of the law. They must always bear in mind that the Pharmacy Act was not passed primarily to protect them, but solely for the benefit of the public. Apart from that they had no reason for any restrictions or any privileges. The State, with a desire to hedge round the sale of poisons with restrictions, found ready-made to its hand a body of men who, even at that date, were fairly well trained in the handling of such things, and who at present were still better qualified. The objection to the new Bill was that it tended to break down the fence put round the sale of poisons, and would create, if it became law, a new set of poisons. The public would forget the distinction. The Bill, in effect, said those poisonous substances did not need trained men to sell them. This was a dangerous departure from the principles of the Pharmacy Act of 1868. If the sale of those things needed regulation, they were not things to put into the hands of any tradesman to sell. Chemists had done voluntarily what the Government sought to impose upon outsiders. They had labelled those substances "poison," and exercised a great deal of discretion as to their sale. The proposed legislation, therefore, was not called for by any remissness on their part. They had strong grounds for going before the Government and the public and saying, "We have done our duty, we are able, capable, and well qualified to discharge all the duties placed upon us with regard to the sale of poisons, and you are making a great mistake, and doing us and the public an injustice, if you try to break down in the least the distinction in the public mind between things which may be sold by qualified men and things which may be sold by everybody." The last thirty years had proved the wisdom of the Pharmacy Act, and if hundreds of lives had been lost by the misuse of carbolic acid or similar substances the fault did not lay at their doors, or at that of the Pharmaceutical Society. They had only to put their case before the country and before Parliament with a bold front, and as reasonably as they could, to make sure that the Bill would not pass into law in the form in which it was drafted. It was not a mere commercial question. It was a question of principle, moral responsibility, and right.

Mr. Wells (of Blackburn) seconded the resolution, which was supported by Councillor Ralph Shorrocks (Darwen), and Messrs. Garland (Blackburn) and Brown (Burnley), and unanimously carried.

* * * *

Mr. G. P. Pond, of 68 Fleet Street, writes to the *Standard* on the subject of the Poisons Bill, alleging that neither the safety of the public nor a monopoly in trade can be attained by it. Mr. Pond says the Bill "legalises the sale of certain dangerous substances, by any and every person, in the United Kingdom, without control or restriction, except that the seller must put his or her name and address upon the vessel or packet, with the name of the poison, and the word

'Poison.'" Mr. Pond does not observe that the Bill gives the Privy Council power to make regulations in regard to the keeping and selling of the substances scheduled. Mr. Pond shows, further, how badly the Bill has been drafted by quoting the provision that every poison must be labelled with the name and address of the person selling the substance. No provision is made (as in the Pharmacy Act) that for that purpose the seller is to be the person on whose behalf the sale is made. But Mr. Pond has a curious idea that this will drive all the trade into the hands of chemists and druggists, who, he says, "are enabled by other qualifications to sell without the slightest hindrance to trade." As far as these substances are concerned, the chemist would be subject to the same regulations as everybody else.

The *Globe* solemnly endorses the Bill, but makes a curious series of blunders about it. It mixes up the Duke of Devonshire's figures, attributing, for example, to non-scheduled poisons the deaths which he said were due to scheduled ones. It thinks the time has come for new legislation, "unless we are prepared to license free-trade in poisons," which is exactly what this Bill does. And it says the Bill would take away from the Pharmaceutical Society the power of extending the schedule, which is not one of its objects.

A meeting of pharmaceutical chemists of Manchester and district has been called for Thursday evening next, to discuss the Bill. It is suggested in the circular convening the meeting that the Bill is incomplete and unsatisfactory, and that amendments are necessary. One or two local coroners are expected to be present. Mr. Walter Gibbons, we understand, will preside.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

A MEETING of the new Executive of the North British Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain was held, on June 24, for the election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and committees. Mr. J. L. Ewing presided.

Mr. D. STORRAR (Kirkcaldy) said at the last meeting of the Executive they took advantage of Mr. Ewing's absence to consider the question of the chairmanship of the new Executive, and there was a unanimous desire that Mr. Ewing should continue in the chair for another year. Mr. Johnstone and he had been able to tell them that this was also the wish of the President and the Council. They had appointed a small committee to wait upon Mr. Ewing, and he was happy to report that he had expressed his willingness to accept the office. He therefore proposed his re-election, and in doing so referred to the time and energy Mr. Ewing had devoted to the interests of the Society.

Mr. W. L. CURRIE (Glasgow) briefly seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. EWING said he had made up his mind to retire from the chairmanship of the Executive, but in the face of the kind way in which they had approached him he felt it to be his duty to yield to their wishes.

The re-election of Mr. W. L. Currie (Glasgow) was then proposed by Mr. W. R. KERMATH (St. Andrews), seconded by Mr. J. H. FISHER (Dunfermline), and adopted. Mr. CURRIE, who had also thought of retiring, said, as it was the unanimous desire of the Executive, he did not think he could do anything else than accept the position for another year.

The CHAIRMAN then welcomed the new members to the Executive, Mr. Boa and Mr. Ayre; and Mr. AYRE replied.

It was resolved that the General Purposes Committee should consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and resident members of the Executive, to attend to any business arising between the meetings of the Executive or remitted to them by the Executive.

It was also resolved that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Messrs. Bowman, Kermath, Kerr, Storrar, and Strachan be appointed a committee for the nomination of examiners, and to consider any names that may be submitted to them, and to report to a meeting of the Executive, to be held prior to the meeting of Council in November.

The question of the night to be fixed for the meetings of the Branch during next winter and a scheme for the improvement of the ventilation of the laboratories in the Society's house were also considered in private. The scheme of ventilation submitted was for the introduction of Blackman's ventilators, at a cost of about 80%. Both subjects were remitted to the General Purposes Committee, with powers, it being understood that the whole ventilation scheme should not be proceeded with at once.

The Executive then met in private.

Business Changes.

Notices of changes in the retail trade, and opening of new businesses, are inserted in this section free of charge, if properly authenticated.

MESSRS. BOOT (LIMITED) have opened branch premises in South Parade, Melton Mowbray.

MR. W. WILLIAMS, chemist and druggist, has sold his business at Waltham Cross and removed to Uttoxeter.

MR. WILLIAM LUCAS, chemist and druggist, Kettering and Talbot Roads, Northampton, is enlarging his business premises.

MR. H. J. DUKES, chemist and druggist, has recently taken over the business carried on for many years by Mr. J. G. Mellor at St. Neots.

MR. MARTIN MAGOR, Birmingham, is resigning his seat on Aston District Council. Mr. Magor twelve months ago only consented to stand under pressure.

THE business of Mr. Gilbert Thonger, Harborne, was lately sold under an execution by the Sheriff, and was purchased by his son, Mr. C. T. Thonger, by whom it is being carried on.

MR. J. WORMALL WATTS, from Brighton and London, has acquired the York Pharmacy, 8 York Buildings, Clifton lately conducted by Mr. T. C. Richards, and founded by the late Mr. R. Keevill.

MR. J. H. STAGG, one of the oldest chemists in Great Yarmouth, having retired from business, the whole of his stock and formulae have been purchased by Messrs. Steward & Son, Market Place.

MESSRS. JOHN PEPPER & CO. (LIMITED) have removed from Bayley Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.C., where they have carried on business for many years, to more extensive premises at 145 Bermondsey Street, S.E.

MR. JAMES A. WATERSTON, chemist and druggist, of Forfar, Scotland, has purchased the branch business of Mr. George Morris, chemist and druggist, at No. 23 Market Place, Great Bridge, Tipton, of which he has been manager.

TAYLOR'S DRUG COMPANY (LIMITED) have purchased the businesses lately carried on by Mr. Powell, chemist, 8 Town Street, Stanningley, and by Mr. H. Taylor, chemist, 78 Town Street, Farsley; also those of the late Mr. W. R. Taylor, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, and of the late Mr. John Dickens, 7 Prince Street, Bridlington Quay.

MR. FREDERICK DAVIS, of the Laboratory, Imperial Buildings, Ludgate Circus, wishes us to state that he is in no way related to or connected with the photographer of the same name who was stated to have given information to the police which led to the prosecution of a Battersea chemist for selling cyanide of potassium without registering the sale.

A DRUG IN THE MARKET.

"This war with Spain
Gives me a pain,"
The doleful druggist cries,
"Because those who
Buy from me do
Not stop to analyse;

"But hate, you know,
The Spanish so,
That I can have no hope
Of selling now,
By anyhow,
My stock of Castile soap."

New York Sun.

New Companies & Company News.

P. F. BOURKE & CO. (LIMITED).—Capital 10,000*l.*, in 5*l.* shares. Objects: To enter into an agreement with Patrick F. Bourke, Charles E. Peel, and Hugh M. Peel for the acquisition of the business now carried on at East Moors, Cardiff, as "P. F. Bourke, Chemical-manufacturer," and to carry on the business of chemical-manufacturers. Registered without articles of association.

WATSON'S (MINERAL-WATER MANUFACTURERS) (LIMITED)—Capital 2,000*l.*, in 5*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the Diamond Jubilee Mineral-water Works and Hop Bitters Brewery, Pentre, Glam., carried on by A. Watson & Co., and to acquire the Rhondda Valley Agency for Claytons (Cardiff) (Limited), for the sale of certain beverages. A. Watson is the managing director.

BENTLEY (LIMITED)—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To adopt an agreement with T. Bentley, and to carry on the business of chemists, druggists, drysalter, oil and colour men, and makers of and dealers in proprietary articles. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—Mrs. Matilda Bentley, Miss Florence Bentley, Miss Maria Bentley, and James Bentley, draper, of Portland Street, Leek; Thomas Bentley, 15 Sheep Market, Leek, chemist; Wm. Salton, St. Edward Street, Leek, game-dealer; Percy Miller, Times Office, Leek, reporter. Registered without articles of association.

SOUTHALL BROTHERS & BARCLAY (LIMITED).—We learn that these shares have been applied for several times over, and that letters of allotment and regret will be issued on Monday next, July 4.

WATSON, WALKER & QUICKFALL (LIMITED).—In the Chancery Division on June 25, before Mr. Justice Romer, Mr. Eustace Smith appeared in support of a petition presented by this company, who carry on the business of manufacturing chemists, &c., at Leeds and other places in Yorkshire, asking the Court to sanction a reduction of capital. The capital of the company was 25,000*l.*, divided into 250 shares of 100*l.* each, the whole of which had been issued, and of which 80*l.* had been paid up on each share. The company proposed to return 20*l.* per share on condition that it was liable to be recalled by the company at any time. There were no creditors. Mr. Justice Romer said that before the proposal was sanctioned the petitioners must prove that the money to be returned consisted of undivided profits. Mr. Smith said he had no evidence on that point. Consequently the application was ordered to stand over.

MELLIN'S FOOD (LIMITED).—Mr. E. C. Bliss presided over the third ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this company, held on June 27, at the offices, Peckham. In proposing the adoption of the report, the Chairman referred with satisfaction to the progress of the business. The sales during the past year had continued to show more than the usual increase, and after paying the preference dividend there remained sufficient to pay a dividend of 14 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and to carry forward 1,332*l.* to the next account. The dividend would have been larger had it not been that the directors had considerably increased the advertising expenditure in Germany, Norway, and Sweden, and they had no doubt that the money spent in opening up those new fields would prove lucrative in the future. The parent company held all the ordinary shares in the Australian company which was recently formed, and they anticipated large dividends from that source. He believed theirs was the largest patent-food business in the world, and the directors intended that it should always retain that position. Mr. G. A. Maull seconded the report, which was adopted. Subsequently an extraordinary meeting was held, when resolutions were passed converting each 5*l.* preference share into five 1*l.* shares, the Chairman explaining that the object the directors had in view was to interest a larger number of persons in the company.

APOLLINARIS AND JOHANNIS WATERS COMPANY.—At the first annual meeting of shareholders in the company holding the rights of the Apollinaris, Johannis, and Apenta Waters, held at the Holborn Restaurant, London, on June 24, Mr.

Fredk. Gordon, who presided, moved the adoption of the directors' report and accounts, and the declaration of a dividend of 6 per cent. for the year. Mr. Gordon dealt with the fall in the price of the shares, for which he said the board was not responsible. Most of the economies promised in the prospectus amalgamating the companies had already been overtaken; 1,000*l.* a year had been saved on the new railway-siding at the Apollinaris spring. The sales of Apollinaris water had been steadily increasing; since the year closed on March 31 (he had not yet received the export report), so far as the United Kingdom and the Continent of Europe were concerned, the sales were far in advance of the corresponding period of 1896-97. Apenta was becoming daily a more valuable asset, the sales since April 1 last having increased 50 per cent. over the corresponding period of last year. With regard to this water, he believed that in the near future it would produce a return equal to a 1½ or 2 per cent. dividend, as the spring, which was situated in Hungary, was now the absolute property of the company, and every bottle sold in addition to the present sales would give a larger profit, as there would be no additional establishment expenses, and the trade was practically a monopoly. Mr. Edw. Steinkopf and the late proprietors of Apollinaris had met them in the most generous manner in reference to the arrangement of the accounts, and every promise had been fully carried out. Having paid a tribute of praise to the efforts of Mr. Julius C. Prince, the managing director, the Chairman concluded by formally moving his motion, which was seconded by Mr. Prince. In reply to a shareholder, the Chairman said the reference to the Johannis water was the only depressing part of the report. After the amalgamation, it was found that customers had excessive stocks of Johannis, and this had considerably affected the profit of the past year. The water was now being applied for by many people, and it had a fair sale; in many respects they found it a useful adjunct to the Apollinaris business. The report was then adopted, and the dividend agreed to.

Personalities.

MR. R. E. BICKERTON, chemist and druggist, has resigned the dispensership of the Leeds Union.

MR. D. O. HAYNES, of the *Pharmaceutical Era*, New York and Detroit, has been in London this week. He is staying at the Savoy Hotel.

MAJOR SCHUYLER SCHIEFFELIN, of Schieffelin & Co., New York, has started for San Francisco, to join the next expedition going to Manila.

WE observe that Mr. P. W. Squire, the Queen's chemist, has written the punting section of "Rowing and Punting," which has just been published by Longmans.

MR. PHILIP D. ARMOUR has presented the Armour Institute of Technology at Chicago with an additional \$500,000, making his benefaction 1½ million dollars. He gave the second donation before he won the wheat deal.

MR. JAMES W. HENTON, of the Auckland house of Kempthorne, Prosser & Co. (Limited), who has been visiting several of the principal cities in the United States, has sailed for Liverpool per *Etruria* on his way home.

MR. ALEX. SMITH, the botanist who did such good service with Sir H. H. Johnson in Uganda, is now to devote his attention exclusively to botanical matters, and an experimental garden is to be laid out in the Blantyre (B.C.A.) district.

MR. CHARLES EDWARD CORTIS STANFORD, B.Sc., eldest son of Mr. E. C. C. Stanford, ex-President of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, has just taken his M.B. degree. Mr. Stanford's is the only name in the list of passes with B.Sc. attached.

MR. ERNEST ALBERT UMNEY, pharmaceutical chemist, has been admitted as a partner in the firm of Wright, Layman & Umney, Southwark, London. Mr. E. A. Umney was a pupil with Mr. Martindale, of London, and was silver medalist in practical chemistry in the Pharmaceutical Society's Laboratory Session, 1897.

Legal Reports.

The Pharmacy Act of Ireland.

ON June 23, at Castlebellingham, adjourned summonses were heard at the suit of P.-S. McDonagh, Inspector of Weights and Measures for the police district of Castlebellingham, against two traders of the town—Mr. James Gannon and Mr. Stephen Butterly—"for keeping open shop for retailing and dispensing poisonous compounds within the meaning of the Poisons Act of 1870, and selling and retailing and dispensing a poison contrary to the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875, defendants not being properly qualified to do so." The first-named defendant had sold a bottle of "Calvert's carbolic acid" and a bottle of "McDougall's sheep-dip" to complainant; and Mr. Butterly had sold a bottle of "Medcalf's cough syrup and elixir" to a police-constable named David Coughlan.

Mr. Joseph Day (instructed by Messrs. Casey & Clay) appeared for complainant and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland; Mr. W. H. Browne (instructed by Mr. W. L. B. Cochrane, Bailieborough) appeared for the defendant James Gannon; Mr. Dickie, solicitor, Dundalk, appeared for the defendant Stephen Butterly.

In regard to the first summons against James Gannon, which dealt with the selling of Calvert's carbolic acid. Mr. Day said this substance had been added to the list of poisons within the meaning of the Act of 1870. The fine for the offence was a fixed sum of 5*l*.

Professor Tichborne deposed that the bottle contained 8 oz. of carbolic acid, which was enough to kill a great number of people.

Mr. Browne said that for twenty-seven years after the passing of the Act carbolic acid was not a poison under the Act, and it was only last year that it was scheduled in the *Gazette*, which was never seen by country shopkeepers. As a matter of fact, the sale of the bottle was quite unintentional, as it was only intended for Mrs. Gannon.

An assistant in the shop of Mr. Gannon said he had given the bottle to Sergeant McDonagh by mistake, thinking it was on the premises for sale, while in reality it was for Mrs. Gannon's private use.

The Bench imposed a fine of 5*l*. for this offence.

The other summons with reference to McDougall's sheep-dip was withdrawn by Mr. Day.

Mr. Browne proposed to examine Professor Tichborne in reference to the constitution of McDougall's sheep-dip, which was a very important thing for the farmers of the country. This dip had been used for thirty years in Ireland, and was of the greatest use. They were prepared to prove that its contents were absolutely harmless, and the summons could not be sustained in any court of law. It was the first case on record in which McDougall's sheep-dip had been questioned, and he claimed the right to prove that it was in no sense a "poison."

Mr. Turner said Mr. Day had withdrawn the case, and they could not hear evidence in it. It was a sufficient answer to anything that might be said against the sheep-dip that the case had been withdrawn, for defendant could say that the case could not be established.

The summons against Mr. Butterly was then gone into, in reference to the selling of "Medcalf's cough syrup and elixir," and the offence being held proved, a fine of 5*l*. was inflicted on defendant.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

SPIRIT. ÆTHER. NIT.—FIRST SUMMONSES UNDER THE NEW PHARMACOPŒIA.

ON Monday, at North London Police Court, two summonses were down for hearing before Mr. D'Eyncourt against chemists for selling sweet spirit of nitre of insufficient strength. One summons was against Mr. James Chipps, of 215 Victoria Park Road, and the other against Mr. Ralph Hall, of 552 Kingsland Road, each summons stating that, "on May 27, 1893, you did unlawfully sell to the prejudice of the purchaser a drug—to wit, 4 oz. of sweet spirit of nitre—for which 1*s*. 3*d*. was paid, and which was deficient of its active principle, ethyl nitrite, to the extent of 14 per cent."

—(in Mr. Hall's case it was 15 per cent.)—"and was not, therefore, of the nature, substance, and quality demanded by the purchaser, contrary to the provisions of the statute in that case made and provided." The inspector under the Food and Drugs Act to the Hackney Vestry (Samuel Punter) attended, and said that the Vestry had withdrawn the summonses, and the defendants had had notice not to attend the Court. Mr. D'Eyncourt: On what ground have the summonses been withdrawn? The solicitor to the Vestry should have come to ask for the withdrawal in the ordinary way. Dr. King Warry (Medical Officer of Health for the parish of Hackney) said, if he might be permitted to explain, it was this: Mr. H. T. Tiddeman, the Vestry solicitor, was unable to come that day. But the fact was that the Vestry, having regard to the new Pharmacopœia, and with the idea that all chemists had not made themselves acquainted with it, had decided not to proceed with these summonses. Mr. D'Eyncourt: Very well; they will be struck out.

PROSECUTE THE COW.

IN a case heard at Fleetwood, on June 23, the Public Analyst had certified that two samples of milk sold by a farmer were inferior. A witness for the prosecution admitted that one of the samples was taken straight from the cow, and this was certified to be inferior to another sample taken from one of defendant's carts. The Bench stopped the case and dismissed it.

STRICT INTERPRETATION.

A GROCER was summoned at Steyning Petty Sessions on Monday for selling olive oil which was certified to contain 100 parts of cotton-seed oil. Police-Sergeant Goldring, who completed the purchase, stated that when he purchased the oil he told the assistant it was for analysis, and he thereupon divided the oil into three parts in the usual way. Witness, in reply to the Clerk, said he did not use any other words. He simply said, "I have purchased the oil for analysis." Mr. Dell, who appeared for the defence, said, under those circumstances, he should ask that the summons be dismissed, as it was not necessary for him to proceed further with the case. He based his contention on the case of *Barnes v. Chipp*, in which it was held that the police-officer should have said, "I want the oil for analysis by the public analyst." The case was accordingly dismissed.

County Court Cases.

RETAILERS AND TRAVELLERS.

AT Southwark County Court, before Judge Addison, Q.C., on Tuesday, Mr. Richard Ormond, chemist, of Pembroke, was sued by Messrs. Daniel Judson & Son (Limited), merchants, Southwark Street, S.E., who sought to recover 6*l*. 1*s*. 10*d*. for goods sold and delivered. Defendant said he had paid 4*l*. 14*s*. 5*d*. into court and 6*s*. costs, leaving 1*l*. 7*s*. 5*d*. in dispute. This was for gold paint which he did not order, and which he distinctly told the plaintiffs' traveller he would have none of. The traveller wished him to give an order for the paint, and represented that he would appoint him sole agent, but witness told him he would have none of it, because it was only a fraud on the public, and not gold paint at all. (Laughter.) Notwithstanding this some of the stuff was sent, and witness immediately wrote to the traveller saying he would not accept it. He received a reply asking him to hold it until he (the traveller) called again but he had not put in an appearance. Witness wrote to the firm when he found the traveller did not call, but had not received any reply. Plaintiffs' representative declared that his principals had never received this communication from defendant. This statement was corroborated by plaintiffs' cashier, who opened all the firm's letters. In answer to his Honour defendant said he did not keep a copy of the order or the letters he sent. His Honour: What did the traveller say about this paint when he called on you for orders? Defendant: He asked me if I would have some, and I said, "Decidedly not." His Honour: Then, when it came, you should have immediately sent it back to the plaintiffs, and have written to them. Defendant: I did not want to do the traveller an injury, so I wrote to him first. I did not like

to complain to the firm; but when I found the traveller did not answer I wrote to the plaintiffs, and they took no notice. His Honour remarked that defendant should have again written to the firm, and inquired why his letter had not been answered. In a case heard immediately prior to this, and in which the dispute was somewhat similar, it was shown that as soon as Messrs. Judson received a letter of complaint from their customer they answered it. He was bound to believe that in this case plaintiffs had not received the letter. Defendant had not sufficiently repudiated the goods or rejected them, as the law required, and therefore there would be judgment for the plaintiffs for 1*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*, in addition to the amount paid into court, with costs. Plaintiffs' representative said he had had to come specially from Eastbourne for this case, and asked for his costs entailed by that journey. His Honour: Oh, no; you do not live there—your place is in Southwark. Defendant: I believe they did not answer my letter because they anticipated that I would pay rather than go to the cost of defending this action. His Honour: That is imputing to them conduct which I do not think should be imputed to them. Defendant: Well, I hope your Honour will give me time to realise. His Honour: How long do you want? Defendant: Three months. His Honour: You must pay the amount in two monthly instalments. During the hearing of the case, which occupied a considerable time, plaintiffs' cashier informed his Honour that the firm had withdrawn all their country travellers, having decided to spend the money in advertising instead. They found it a much better policy to deal direct with their customers.

The Sale of Liquorice-root.

THE case of *Assaye v. Holz*, which came before Mr. Justice Kennedy in the Queen's Bench Division on Tuesday, raised certain financial points in dispute between the two parties. Plaintiff is a merchant of Bagdad, and the defendant a commission-agent, London. The disagreement arose out of a number of shipments of liquorice-root. Mr. Carver, Q.C., appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Joseph Walton for the defendant.

Mr. Carver said that in the statement of claim, a claim was made for 10,402 bales of liquorice-root at 4*l.* 9*s.* per ton, less a shilling a ton for shipment, or 4*l.* 8*s.* net. That, he conceived, was a mistake. It arose in this way. His client, Mr. Assaye, came to London to settle matters last year. He went into the accounts with the defendant's clerk, with the result that the account in the writ was arrived at. But this, he admitted, was not a binding one. The number of bales then given was 10,402. But, on subsequent inquiry, it was made clear that 1,479 bales of a previous shipment had been included, which had already been settled for. Counsel read voluminous correspondence between the parties regarding the shipping of the bales of liquorice-root. The defendant, Counsel continued, was claiming 5 per cent. commission, but he was only entitled to 2½ per cent. commission, if he were entitled to commission at all, which was a question in dispute. The plaintiff held himself to be justified in breaking off his dealings with the defendant on finding he was not acting properly towards him. But, as a matter of fact, defendant did get all the liquorice that plaintiff shipped during 1896.

The hearing was resumed on Wednesday, when the defendant's case was opened. The day was occupied in hearing the evidence of defendant's agent at Bussora.

Bovril Litigation.

At the Guildhall Police Court, on June 28, before Mr. Alderman Strong, Bovril (Limited) was summoned, at the instance of Thomas William Strud, for having unlawfully applied a false trade description to certain bottles of Bovril. Mr. Horace Avory appeared in support, and Mr. H. H. Asquith, M.P., Q.C., represented the defendant company. Mr. Avory said the false trade description complained of was applied to a bottle of what was known as Bovril. The number of a design—100,848—was especially complained of. This appeared on the bottle, and implied that the design was registered, but he alleged that the registration expired in 1893, and had never been renewed; hence these proceedings. Frank Clay, a youth, deposed to purchasing, on June 16, the

bottles of Bovril produced. Each bore the number 100,848. The Alderman: Your contention is that the copyright had expired? Mr. Avory: Yes. Clay was cross-examined by Mr. Asquith. He said that he was a junior clerk in the service of the Bouillon Fleet Company. Mr. Asquith: And until recently the bottles in which Bouillon Fleet was sold were different in shape from what they are now?—Yes. Mr. Asquith: And you have recently adopted bottles the shape of Bovril bottles?—I believe so. Mr. Asquith: And the matter is now in the Chancery Division of the High Court?—I don't know. Mr. Avory: I admit that. Judgment has not yet been given. Mr. Asquith: Who told you to get the bottles of Bovril?—The secretary of Bouillon Fleet. Mr. Asquith submitted that the Act had not been contravened. The Bouillon Fleet Company had adopted the kind of bottles used by the Bovril Company, the object, he (Mr. Asquith) submitted, being to pass off their goods as those of the defendant company. He granted that the registration expired in 1893, but the registered number was never cancelled, because the registered numbers went onward and onward, so that in time the numbers would reach millions. Where was the false description? It was not the bottle they sold, but the Bovril inside the bottle. The learned counsel went over the sections of the Act to which reference had been made, and contended that there had been no violation of the Merchandise Marks Act. Mr. Avory, in reply, remarked that it was impossible to stamp fluids; the only mark in such cases must be on the bottle. The Alderman came to the conclusion that no offence had been committed, and therefore dismissed the summons. Mr. Asquith asked for costs. The Alderman said he should make no order as to costs. Mr. Avory asked his Worship to state a case for the High Court. The Alderman: Certainly.

"Yorkshire Relish" in Australia.

THE High Court of Victoria (the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Holroyd, and Mr. Justice A'Beckett) dealt, on May 19, with an application by William Powell, trading as Goodall, Backhouse & Co., of Leeds, England, for the removal from the register of trade-marks of a mark registered for sauce known as "Yorkshire Relish," or that the Court might make such other order for rectification as it should think fit. The mark sought to be removed was registered in Victoria by the Birmingham Vinegar Brewery Company, and the ground of the present application was that the mark was so similar to that registered by Powell as to be calculated to deceive the public. The evidence on affidavit showed that in 1897 goods put up by the Birmingham company under their trade-mark were imported into the colony and sold. About thirty-five years ago Powell commenced to manufacture and sell "Yorkshire Relish" in Great Britain, and gained a great reputation for it, the substance being made from a secret recipe. An injunction restraining the Birmingham company from selling sauce contained in bottles bearing a label resembling the applicant's had been obtained by Powell in England. The decision granting this injunction was last year upheld by the House of Lords. It appeared that the applicant's sauce had been on the Victorian market for twenty years, and had been sold and asked for as "Yorkshire Relish." Moreover, when "Yorkshire Relish" was asked for, it was stated that the sauce manufactured by Powell was meant. It was also represented by affidavit that the sauce put up by the Birmingham company under the name of "Yorkshire Relish" was not identical with Powell's sauce similarly described, and that unless the trade-mark objected to were removed it would do a great deal of harm, by enabling unscrupulous traders to pass off the Birmingham company's goods as Powell's.

The Court ordered the words "Yorkshire Relish" in the register on the respondents' trade-mark to be struck out, notice of the order to be given to the Commissioner. Costs were allowed to the applicant.

A SCRAP FROM THE SQUARE.—Student: "Before leaving the institution I wish to express my gratitude for the instruction I have received. To you, professor, I owe all I know." Professor: "You are very kind, but it is hardly worth mentioning."

Bankruptcy Report.

Re GILBERT THONGER, lately carrying on business at Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Chemist.

THE creditors met on June 22 at the offices of the Official Receiver, Birmingham. The statement of affairs had not then been lodged. Mr. Woollett (assistant official receiver) said one of the creditors had put the affairs into the Sheriff's hands. Had the business been sold as a going concern he had no hesitation in stating that matters would have been very different. Being a summary case, the Official Receiver remains trustee.

Re FRANCIS MAXIMILIAN WALBRAN, 9 Marlborough Grove, Leeds, Commercial Traveller and Fishing-tackle Manufacturer.

THE adjourned public examination of this bankrupt was heard at the Leeds Bankruptcy Court on June 28. Liabilities, 5,402*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*; assets, 1,783*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* The bankrupt commenced business as a fishing-tackle manufacturer in 1888 with no capital, having previously been traveller for the late Mr. W. Smeeton, pharmaceutical chemist, Leeds. He became embarrassed two years ago, and since then the business had been carried on under a deed of inspectorship, the bankrupt receiving a salary of 4*l.* a week. All the receipts had, however, gone in expenses. The examination was further adjourned.

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Boothroyd, J. S., and Kitchin, H. B., under the style of Boothroyd & Kitchin, Deptford, general medical practitioners.

Flood, F., and Fisher, G. R., under the style of Fisher & Flood, Leamington, chemists.

Oakeley, C. E., and Yencken, R. F., under the style of Oakeley & Yencken, Ivydale Road, Nunhead, S.E., physicians and surgeons.

Parkin, J., and Roberts, A., under the style of Joseph Parkin & Co., Heckmondwike, manufacturing chemists and oil and tallow refiners, &c.

Sharp, C. A., and Allan, C. J., under the style of Sharp & Allan, Redcar, chemists and druggists.

Skrimshire, F. W., and Brumell, A., under the style of Frederick W. Skrimshire & Arthur Brumell, Morpeth, surgeons.

Timson, T., and Tyler, R., under the style of the Leicester Hydropathic and Phrenologist Institute, Leicester.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

RECEIVING ORDER.

Atkin, Alfred Howell, Rochester, physician and surgeon.

ADJUDICATION.

Mills, Owen, Bethesda, Carnarvonshire, drug-dealer.

From the "Edinburgh Gazette."

SEQUESTRATION.

June 22.—Joseph Robertson, Cullen, in the county of Banff, druggist. Creditors to meet in the Seaford Arms Hotel, Cullen, July 5, at 12 o'clock.—Alex. Sim, solicitor, Cullen, agent.

Deeds of Arrangement.

Craven, Henry Ernest, 21 Market Street, Lichfield, chemist. Trustee, Thomas Barclay, Lower Priory, Birmingham, manufacturing chemist. Dated, June 21; filed, June 22. Liabilities unsecured, 382*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*; estimated net assets, 327*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Craven, T., Melton Mowbray	10	0	0
Roberts, E., Lichfield	125	0	0
Southall Brothers & Barclay, Birmingham ..	188	0	0

Clegg, John William, 94 and 96 Rose Grove Lane, Burnley, physician and surgeon. Dated, June 20; filed, June 25. Secured creditors, 750*l.*; liabilities unsecured, 2,948*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*; estimated net assets, 195*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* Composition of 4*s.* in the pound, payable by three instalments—viz., 2*s.* on June 21, 1898; 1*s.* on June 7, 1899; and 1*s.* on June 7, 1900. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Arnold J., (c/o, &c.) Burnley	25	0	0
Barlow, J. A., Burnley	1,428	0	0
Baron Bridge, Accrington	37	0	0
Davies, Gibbins & Co., Derby	15	0	0
Edge, F., Wolverhampton	37	0	0
Hartley, L., Clayton-le-Moors	25	0	0
Lees, S., Padiham	118	0	0
Nuttall, M., Hanley	170	0	0
Pollard, C., Accrington	25	0	0
Riley, H., Accrington	21	0	0
Smith, W., Accrington	687	0	0
Walmsley, I. T., Accrington	25	0	0
Watson, W. L., Accrington	71	0	0
Wearing, J., Accrington	183	0	0
Whittaker, C. J., Accrington	45	0	0
Wilson, W., Accrington	26	0	0

Trade Notes.

MESSRS. E. COOK & Co.'s coupon-scheme for giving away free tablets of "Riviera" soap seems to have been a success. One customer has disposed of 3,000 tablets (value 51*l.*) in this way in six months. Some particulars are given in an advertisement in this issue.

MESSRS. ARTHUR H. COX & Co., of Brighton, have issued a price-list of their "tasteless" pills, which is corrected to July 1898, and is brought into conformity with the new Pharmacopœia. The price-list is a 32mo one of 72 pages, and contains, besides a complete formulary, a list of the most active ingredients in the pills. It is useful and handy for chemists.

MESSRS. WILLIAM GARDNER & SONS, Gloucester, manufacturers of sifters and mixers for chemists, have published a new edition of their illustrated catalogue, which contains several new designs. The construction of the machines and the method of working them are fully described, so that those who have not seen them may appreciate the facility with which they are worked. Any chemist may get a copy of the catalogue on application; No. 12 should be asked for.

TEST-PAPERS.—We have received from Messrs. Charles Yarrow & Co., 36 Basinghall Street, E.C., a copy of an annotated price-list of test-papers made by Mr. E. Dieterich, Helfenberg, near Dresden. We had occasion to note some time ago that Dieterich's litmus and other papers are put up in rolls contained in a box with slit side. The sensitiveness of the papers is exceptional, the blue litmus being 1 of SO₂ in 50,000, and the red 1 of KOH in 60,000.

LEMON-SQUASH POWDER.—Messrs. John Good & Co., Eclipse Works, Love Lane, S.E., have added to their "Fruju" brand goods a lemon-squash powder. It is put up in bottles. A teaspoonful is added to a quart of sweetened water to form lemon-squash. The flavour is very nice. Fruit-juice wines are another new line of this firm. The wines are put up in clear wine-bottles, and one we have examined, labelled "Cowslip," has a decided smack of this old-fashioned wine. They are non-alcoholic.

BISMUTH SUBGALLATE, as a remedy in certain forms of diarrhoea, and in fermentative dyspepsia, has recently attracted attention, and on the Continent it has been recommended in typhoid, gastric catarrh, and even in cases of Asiatic cholera. As the medicine is insoluble in water or alcohol, the compressed form seems very suitable for it, and Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. have met the demand for it by supplying it in 5-gr. tabloids. The usual dose is 5 gr. before or after each meal.

GUAIACOPHOSPHAL AND PHOSPHOTAL.—Under these names the Société Chimique des Usines du Rhone are introducing phosphites of guaiacol and creosote to the medical profession. Guaiacophosphal contains 92.2 per cent. of guaiacol, against 89.8 per cent. contained in carbonate of guaiacol, and is a white crystalline substance with a warm

taste, soluble in alcohol, glycerine, olive oil, and slightly in cod-liver oil. Phosphotal is an oily liquid, which crystallises at a low temperature, and is more soluble in absolute alcohol, glycerin, and oil than guaiacophosphal. The dose of these substances is from 15 gr. to 45 gr. in a day, although 90 gr. have been given without ill-effect. Messrs. R. W. Greeff & Co., 20 Eastcheap, E.C., are the English agents.

HARZBACH WATER—This is the name of a new sparkling table-water (of mineral origin) introduced by Messrs. Brown Bros. & Co., 35 Washington Street, Glasgow. It comes to us in $\frac{1}{2}$ -pint bottles stoppered with "Crown" corks, and we find the water to be not unpleasant to taste, while it mixes well and develops the flavour of spirits and wines. Its sparkle lasts for a long time. The analysis of Professor E. J. Mills, D.Sc., F.R.S., shows that the water contains 208.13 gr. of solids per gallon, of which a little more than half is sodium chloride; the other principal ingredients are sodium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, potassium carbonate, lithium carbonate, and potassium and sodium sulphates. It will be seen, therefore, that it is a good saline water for those of a gouty or rheumatic tendency.

HILLABYS' LIQUORICE—The popularity of Pontefract cakes is by no means decreasing; indeed, it is noteworthy that in many households a supply is kept of these useful remedial confections. Messrs. Hillabys (Limited), Lion Works, Pontefract, are alive to the importance of maintaining the demand for their products, and are now putting up their Pontefract cakes in $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. decorated tins, which retail at 1s., and they make waters (which seem to combine the virtues of gelatin lozenges and liquorice) which are put up in 2-oz., $\frac{1}{4}$ -lb., and $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tins for retail. Their pure liquorice pellets are put up in pocket-tins which retail at 6d. To chemists these are profitable extras, and Hillabys are advertising them freely as being sold by chemists. Free samples will be sent to any of our subscribers who apply for them.

Wills of Deceased Chemists.

The will of Mr. E. J. Upton, chemist and druggist, Wallingford, who died on November 9, has been proved by his widow and sole executrix, Mrs. Martha Upton, by whom the testator's personal estate was sworn at 2,995*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* gross, and 2,502*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* net.

Letters of administration to the estate of Mr. William Pick 168 Chapeltown Road, Leeds, chemist and druggist, who died on August 23, intestate, have been granted to his sister, Miss Hannah Pick. The deceased's personal estate is sworn at 2,589*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* gross, and 964*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* net.

Mr. Henry Thomas Edden, 34 Beaufort Road, Edgbaston, having died on May 10 intestate and without father, letters of administration to his estate have been granted to his mother, Mrs. E. Edden, as sole next-of-kin. The deceased's estate is sworn at 969*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, of which 893*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* is net personalty.

The late Mr. Edwin A. Edden, 68 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, having died intestate, unmarried, and without surviving father, letters of administration to his estate have been granted to his mother, Mrs. Annie Edden, by whom the deceased's estate is sworn at 1,200*l.* 2*s.*, the net personalty being 1,159*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*

The will, with one codicil, of Mr. Edwin Edden, of West Grove, Hagley Road, Edgbaston, wholesale druggist, who died on January 21, was proved by Mrs. Anne Edden, the widow, and Mr. Henry Thomas Edden, the son of the testator, whose gross estate is sworn at 6,025*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* The net personalty amounts to 5,564*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*

The will, with a codicil, of Mr. Richard William Giles, 60 Nevyn Square, W., who died on December 25, has been proved by Mrs. F. E. Giles, the widow, Miss Margaret M. Giles, the daughter, and M. A. E. Bobbett, 44 Corn Street, Bristol; the testator's personalty is sworn at 10,773*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* gross, and 9,837*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* net.

Marriages.

BAKER—BOOTH.—On June 28, at St. Helen's Church, Low Fell, Gateshead, A. H. S. Baker, chemist, Gateshead, to M. A. Booth.

DUKES—WYCROFT.—At St. Neots Church, by the Rev. Dr. Meade, on June 20, H. J. Dukes, chemist and druggist, St. Neots, to Elizabeth Wycroft, St. Neots.

JACK—DAVIDSON.—At 83 New Street, Rothes, on June 15, by the Rev. C. C. Cowie, F.C., Rothes, assisted by the Rev. George Birnie, A.M., B.D., Spegmouth, James Jack, chemist, Rothes, to Lizzie May, youngest daughter of the late Captain Davidson, Rothes, formerly of Macduff.

POMFRET—RUSHTON.—On June 21, at Great Harwood Congregational Church, by the Rev. E. A. Hytch, Alfred Pomfret, chemist and druggist, Blackburn, to Florence Amelia, daughter of Mr. J. Rushton, Great Harwood.

TINLEY—BOURDAS.—On June 28, at the Church of the Ascension, Balham Hill, by the Rev. G. B. Thurston, M.A., Rector of Lymm, cousin of the bride, assisted by the Rev. H. Curtis, M.A., Vicar, Tom Tinley Tinley, younger son of Thomas Tinley, M.D., J.P., of Whitby, York-shire, to Lillian Ellis, eldest daughter of Isaac Bourdas, of Dunoon House, Clapham Common, London, S.W.

Deaths.

COHN.—At Breslau, Ferdinand Cohn, of heart-disease Aged 70. Professor Cohn was the author of several botanical works dealing principally with microscopical plants and the action of bacteria.

DUTTON.—On June 16, Mr. John Dutton, pharmaceutical chemist, Chester Street, Birkenhead. Aged 79. Mr. Dutton was an assistant to the late Mr. Henry Deane, of Clapham, and was also with Mr. T. N. R. Morson, Southampton Row. In 1845 he went to Birkenhead, and was local secretary of the British Pharmaceutical Conference at the time of its visit to Liverpool in 1870. He was at one time an active member of the Liverpool Pharmaceutical Association, and was much esteemed by local chemists up to the time of his retirement fifteen years ago.

FERNANDEZ.—Senor D. Melchor Garcia Fernandez, a well-known and highly respected pharmacist of Madrid, died there on June 8.

JOSEPHS.—At 11 Compton Terrace, Highbury, N., on June 20, Mr. Saul Josephs, in his 102nd year. Mr. Josephs was born in Clerkenwell, where he commenced business in 1829 as a shopfitter, and this business he carried on until he was an octogenarian, when he retired in favour of his youngest son, Mr. Philip Josephs, sen., who latterly has been joined by Mr. Philip Josephs, jun., and the business is carried on in Old Street as Philip Josephs & Son. The old gentleman retained his faculties to the last, and only took to his bed the day before his death, when failure of the heart's action determined the end.

THOMAS.—On June 11, Mr. Robert Thomas, chemist, Sefton Park, Liverpool. Aged 66.

THOMAS.—At Wrexham, on June 16, Mr. W. J. Thomas, chemist and druggist. Aged 29. Deceased was for many years a manager for Mr. John Bain, of Liverpool, and was very popular among Liverpool pharmacists. His father, a Wesleyan minister, died only last year, and he leaves a widowed mother and a brother and sister.

MR. GEORGE SYDNEY FULLER and Mr. Richard Hazledine Casewell have been granted licences to practise in Cape Colony in the capacity of chemists and druggists.

An excellent preventive against corrosion in rifles in which cordite is used, says the Deputy Commissioner of Upper Burma, is to smear a small quantity of ung. hydrarg. on a piece of flannel rolled round the jag of the cleaning-rod and passed up and down the barrel several times.

Was it fair to call the scientific bootblack a shining light?

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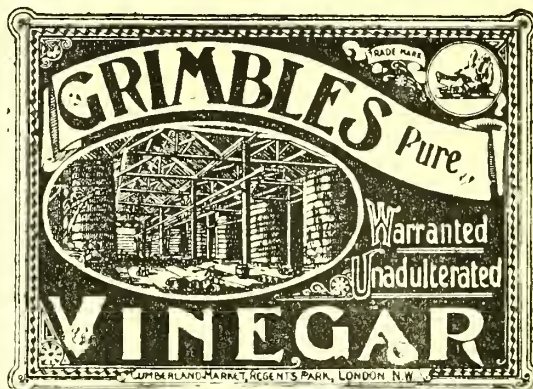
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BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA, 1898.

Editorial Comments.

The Poisonous Substances Bill.

WITH almost indecent haste the Lord President of the Privy Council has rushed his Poisons Bill through the House of Lords. Not, probably, that he cares much about getting it through, but simply, we surmise, that he wants to get it off his hands so as to get away from town. We often hear of the disgraceful character of the obstruction in the House of Commons, but infinitely more dangerous to the nation is the indifference which allows Bills of no polemical interest

to "slip through." The House of Lords is often said by its admirers to have deserved well of the country for the care which its members—or, at least, a section of them—bestow on the Bills of secondary importance which come before it. The peers have sometimes justified this claim, and if they invariably followed the practice they would be entitled to a good share of gratitude. But, as we all know, it is entirely a matter of chance whether a Bill, such as the Poisons Bill, is criticised or not. As it happens, this time nobody has shown the smallest interest in it. Neither on the second reading nor in Committee, nor, as far as we know, in the Standing Committee, where the Bill was supposed to be examined critically, was there so much as a question asked about it. The merest novice can discover in it flaws of drafting, but the greatest lawyers in the land have let it pass without a comment. The second reading occupied ten minutes, the Committee stage five; and in that little time one of the most useful laws on the statute-book has been, not repealed, but to a large extent neutralised, as far as the House of Lords can effect that end.

It is particularly unfortunate that this Bill should have passed through the Upper House between two meetings of the Pharmaceutical Council. We presume the Council have been taken by surprise, or they would certainly have induced some peer to ask for at least sufficient delay to enable the case for pharmacy to be presented. The Bill challenges the Pharmaceutical Society seriously, and we cannot suppose the Council will tamely acquiesce in its adoption. We have no desire to usurp their functions as the representatives of British pharmacy, and we hope next Wednesday to find the Council of the British Society and the Council of the Irish Society in one mind as to the policy to be pursued. Unanimity on the part of the trade of the United Kingdom can defeat this Bill, or at least so far modify it as to save the Pharmacy Acts of the two countries from the injury threatened to them. Pending official action, we have drafted a statement of the case for chemists as it presents itself to our minds, and we publish this in the form of a supplement to the current number.

We suggest to those subscribers who agree with us that they should send their copy of this supplement to their parliamentary representative with a covering letter.

This will at least introduce the subject to members of Parliament, and will give them the fundamental facts necessary to enable them to form a sound opinion. In our statement we have purposely abstained from any strong denunciation, because we wish to get as many as possible of the reasonable section of chemists to use our supplement in the manner indicated. In view of the same purpose, we have not put forward any claim to the monopoly in the poisons-trade as a right. Our argumentative friend Mr. Reid, of Dumfries, is severe with us this week for not maintaining that argument. We must leave that to him and to those who think with him. In our view, his contention would be of no avail if urged on Parliament. The Legislature has passed a good many protective Acts in recent years. It has provided—by the Medical, the Dentists, and the Veterinary Surgeons Acts—means to enable the public to ensure qualified service; but in none of these has it attempted to protect the practice of these professions. If it has gone a little further than this in the Pharmacy Act—that is, in respect to the trade in certain poisons—it has done this entirely out of consideration for the safety of the public, and not, as Mr. Reid thinks should have been the case, as a reward to chemists for passing certain examinations. Mr. Reid, however, and those who think with him should press their view on their members.

If by such arguments they can win votes against the Government Bill, so much the better.

The provision enabling the Privy Council to make regulations as to keeping, dispensing, and selling poisons is the one on which many pharmacists feel more strongly than on the schedule question. We believe that an agreement advantageous to all parties, and humiliating to nobody, could easily be arrived at, and we hope the Pharmaceutical Council will indicate willingness to meet the Privy Council's reasonable wishes in this direction. By mutual agreement much more effective safeguards can be accomplished than by a statutory enactment forced upon the trade.

We are aware that the action we have taken in regard to this Bill will be objected to for one reason or another by some of our friends who ingeniously discover evil motives in everything we do. All we can say is that we have hurriedly taken what seems to us the best course at the moment for the service of pharmacy, and in view of the urgency of the case we trust a very large number of chemists will promptly adopt our suggestion; and if they will advise us by postcard that they have done so, it will be a convenience and a gratification.

The Constituents of Argon.

IN further investigation on argon Professor Ramsay, F.R.S. and Mr. Morris W. Travers have made some changes in the manipulative methods employed. They took a large quantity of argon and freed it from oxygen and nitrogen in the usual way, by means of red-hot copper and magnesium, then liquefied it by means of liquid air. This was done by causing the liquid air to boil under reduced pressure. The purification of the first fraction of the lighter gas—*i.e.*, neon—which was obtained by boiling off the liquid argon, was effected by mixing with oxygen, sparking over soda, and removing the excess of oxygen with phosphorus. The gas was then passed into a vacuum-tube, and the spectrum examined. The wave-length of the yellow line measured by Mr. Baly proves that it is not identical with sodium, helium, or krypton, all of which equal it in intensity. The extreme difficulty of preparing absolutely pure specimens of gases that are present only in minute quantities was well brought out in this investigation.

There being ample evidence that neon will eventually be found to occupy a place in the periodic table intermediate between argon and helium, a density of 10 or 11 is required. Assuming the density of argon to be 20 and that of pure neon to be 10, the sample worked on contains 53.3 per cent. of the new gas. If the density of neon be taken as 11, there is 59.2 per cent. present in the sample. The fact that the density has already decreased from 17.2 to 13 shows that there is a considerable likelihood that the gas can be further purified by fractionation. That this gas is a new one is sufficiently proved, not merely by the novelty of its spectrum and by its low density, but also by its behaviour in a vacuum-tube. Unlike argon, helium, and krypton, it is rapidly absorbed by the red-hot aluminium electrodes of a vacuum-tube, and the appearance of the tube changes as the pressure falls from carmine red to a most brilliant orange, which phenomenon is seen in no other gas.

Referring to the other gas, meta-argon, which, as explained last week, was obtained by the volatilisation of the white solid that remained after the liquid argon had boiled away, the density has been determined as 19.87, and subsequent determinations made after sparking give the same figure. This density does not sensibly differ from that of argon. The wave-length of sound in the gas was determined with the result that, contrary to expectation, the gas proved to be

monatomic. Inasmuch as this gas differs very markedly from argon in its spectrum and in its behaviour at low temperatures, it must be regarded as a distinct elementary substance. There are probably two causes which account for the non-appearance of krypton in the higher-boiling fraction of argon. In the first place, in order to prepare krypton, the manipulation of no less than 60,000 times the volume of the impure sample used in this investigation would have been required; and, in the second place, while meta-argon is a solid at the temperature of boiling air, krypton is probably a liquid, and more volatile at that temperature. It may be added, especially with reference to krypton, that the air from which krypton was obtained was filtered, and so freed from meta-argon.

The Cape Analyst's Work.

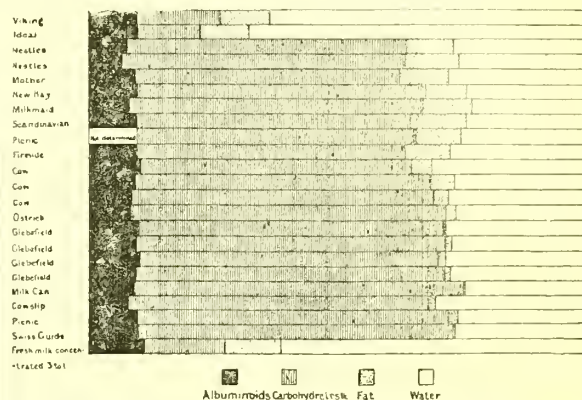
THE report of Mr. Chas. F. Juritz, M.A., Senior Analyst to the Cape Government, for the year 1897 has just been published as a bulky Blue-book. The analytical staff consists of five persons, who in the course of the year examined 979 articles, of which milk and water made up a little more than a fourth. Fewer milks and soils were examined, but the deficiency was made up by drugs and condiments. The following are those examined (*e*) and the numbers found adulterated (*a*):—Sweet spirit of nitre, (*e*) 12, (*a*) 11; glycerin, (*e*) 7, (*a*) 1; cream of tartar, (*e*) 7, (*a*) 0; rhubarb-powder, (*e*) 7, (*a*) 0; compound liquorice-powder, (*e*) 7, (*a*) 0; saffron, (*e*) 7, (*a*) 1; compound tincture of camphor, (*e*) 7, (*a*) 7; Dover's powder, (*e*) 6, (*a*) 0; cinnamon, (*e*) 5, (*a*) 1; aromatic powder of chalk, (*e*) 5, (*a*) 0; balsam copaiba, (*e*) 4, (*a*) 0; quinine-wine, (*e*) 1, (*a*) 4 (*sie*); henbane, (*e*) 4, (*a*) 0; sandalwood oil, (*e*) 4, (*a*) 0; lanoline, (*e*) 3, (*a*) 0; olive oil, (*e*) 3, (*a*) 0; ginger, (*e*) 2, (*a*) 0. The analysis of drugs has been a new feature, says the analyst, no samples having been taken from the passing of the Act in 1890 until 1897. Mr. Juritz appropriately introduces his references to the articles examined by quoting Mr. Otto Hehner's 1893 presidential address to the Society of Public Analysts, in which it was confessed that "the whole Pharmacopœia is a dark continent to the chemist" [*i.e.*, analyst. —ED.]. Sweet spirit of nitre is the first article dealt with, results being given of the tested samples; and the analyst replies to the statements that the spirit will not keep in such a climate as Cape Town by giving the results of two experiments. He bought spt. æther. nit. from two well-known Cape Town firms; one sample (A) assayed 39.1 c.c. of nitrous oxide the day after (December 10) it was bought, the other (B) 35.1 c.c. They were kept in corked bottles, and the corks were taken out for from half an hour to two hours each day, with the following results:—December 17, A 38.9 c.c., B 31.9 c.c.; January 14, A 31.7 c.c., B 30.4 c.c. The analyst properly infers from this that the spirit does not in five weeks of Cape weather and under bad conditions undergo sufficient deterioration to bring it below the B.P. standard. He then pleads for uniformity in the sale of the spirit, and remarks—

It is significant, notwithstanding the assertions of local druggists that "sweet spirit of nitre" need not necessarily be of British Pharmacopœia strength, that in the reports of the Local Government Board, and even in that well-known organ of the trade, THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, the drug is continuously spoken of as "sweet spirit of nitre," and in nearly every case prosecutions are referred to as having taken place for the sale of sweet spirit of nitre which did not contain the requisite amount of nitrous ether.

This is rather hard upon us after our remark on January 8 that "Cape Town pharmacists will have to go over all the ground in regard to sweet spirit of nitre which has been

fought for and won by chemists at home years ago." We were always careful to distinguish between spirit of nitrous ether and sweet spirit of nitre, so long as they were two distinct articles. Mr. Juritz's remarks on other drugs are commonplace, but he gives sufficient data to justify the awakening of the Act from its dormant condition. Chemists and druggists are the first to put their houses in order if they find that they need it.

A valuable part of Mr. Juritz's report is concerned with the analysis of condensed milks. He divides these into four classes, viz.:—(1) "Unsweetened," Viking and Ideal; (2) "Sweetened," Nestlé's, Mother's, New Hay, Milkmaid, Scandinavian, Picnic, and Fireside; (3) "Sweetened, partly skimmed," Cow and Ostrich; (4) "Sweetened, skimmed," Glebe-field, Milk-can, Cowslip, Picnic, and Swiss Guide. The net results of Mr. Juritz's analyses are embodied in the following diagram, which speaks better than words:—



Mr. Juritz protests, as many English analysts have protested, against the dilution of condensed milk with 10 to 14 parts of water, because the condensed article only equals three times its volume of fresh milk. The objection should not be taken too seriously. Babies who are carefully fed on good condensed milk diluted with ten times its volume of water thrive exceedingly well; and after all we must take the article for what it is—a perfectly distinct food.

"Made in Germany."

MR. ACTING CONSUL-GENERAL SCHWABACH has reported to the British Foreign Office on the trade of Germany during last year. Mr. Schwabach's report is notable and curious as showing a creditable patriotism and apparent desire to please his employers. But we wish the Foreign Office had a capable editor on its staff. It employs good publishers, who by promptness and blue paper have done much lately to make consular literature useful to British commerce, but the literature woefully wants editing sometimes. Mr. Schwabach writes excellent English, and speaks wisely, we fancy, about wool, cotton, jute, mantles, lace, leather, hair, rags, "futures," and many other things, but when he comes to the chemical and drug business he is neither up-to-date nor thoroughly English. If there is one thing more than another, apart from the new B.P., which the British drug-trade has given attention to this year it is the alcoholic-extracts question; but Mr. Schwabach works it into his report for the year 1897, and informs Lord Salisbury—for which we thank him—that "the English chemical and pharmaceutical industry has to suffer severely from the competition of the German trade," especially in galenic preparations ("tinctures, extracts, &c."), which the German manufacturer makes with "pure alcohol and still undersells

the English manufacturer, who uses only denaturated spirit." This implies that English tinctures are made with methylated spirit, which is not the case; still, Mr. Schwabach's remark helps to show how English manufacturers fare when they are put on a footing of equality with their German competitors. The English tincture-trade has been an increasing factor since drawback was allowed; the trade in German tinctures has diminished proportionately, and if our manufacturers were permitted to use duty-free non-methylated alcohol in making extracts we should have a fairly substantial addition to home trade. We take Mr. Schwabach's note to mean that. It is a pity so much of his information is ancient. We mention a few of his statements. As to indigo, German firms have united so as to be independent of the "Institute of Commission Agents in Bombay," and prices at the last London auctions decreased, but the production of artificial indigo through "the action of monochlor-essig saure ($C_2H_3ClO_2 + HCl$) on aniline, and melting the stuff produced with caustic soda," seems to have had as much to do with the low prices as the German Union had. It may surprise some, who hear our resident German drug-merchants eagerly competing with each other in the purchase of Cape aloes, to learn that "all consignments" of aloes now go direct to Germany, where exporters get better prices for them than in London; but that is not so astonishing as the influence which the "London Speculation Syndicate" has had upon "the united camphor-refiners" who regulated the prices until the Syndicate stepped in—failed, we may add, and now keep in some quiet corner outside the market a "stock of 6,000 piculs." We must pass over the gum-arabic, quicksilver, tea, chemicals, and patent-medicine paragraphs, although we should like to know when that "1,000 to 1,500 bales of gum arabic seized by the Government in the Soudan [will] arrive in Cairo." German acetic-acid makers had a bad time in 1897; they made too much acid and cheapened it once more. We bought 631 tons of the acid from them, but there was a set-off to that in English borax and boric acid, which beat the German in Germany. It is after recording this fact that Mr. Schwabach brings in the paragraph with which we commenced, thereby showing his true patriotism. He has something to say about "antipyrene," but nothing new except the spelling, and states that "there is a talk of obliging factories producing chloride of lime by the excessively cheap process, 'Leblanc,' to stop their works, in order that the production of the other factories may be regulated. It is proposed that a convention of producers should place the whole trade in one hand, as had been done with caustic &c., and other products of electric works" (*sic*)—from which we judge that the Consul-General reads the papers well. It also appears that "the German manufacturer" was obliged to lower his price of "coffein" by 25 per cent. in 1897, on account of "the manipulations of English manufacturers," nevertheless "a great demand still exists for 'coffeinum, natrio-benzoicum, and natrio-salicylicum. The same may be said of citrate." Having got thoroughly into German terms the Acting Consul-General goes straight ahead, and "cyankali," "natrium carbonicum," and "phosphor" give excellent opportunities of showing that Germany is throwing off her dependence upon Great Britain for anything that is chemical. This is all there is in the report directly interesting to our subscribers. The report is No. 2130 of the Foreign Office Papers. It is not an ideal report. It attempts to give information on a few special branches of trade, but lacks inside knowledge, and omits far more important branches. A digest of the *Berliner Tageblatt* and the *Frankfurter Zeitung* commercial articles might have been better, and, considering the importance to British traders of German industrial developments,

they deserve more from the Foreign Office than this belated, inconsequent, and insufficient twopennyworth.

Air and Sunshine.

It is estimated that in the British Isles there are not fewer than a quarter of a million of persons suffering from consumption, and that one-eleventh of the whole population dies of this one disease. For the whole of Europe Professor Leyden reckons the mortality at 1,000,000 every year. The *Practitioner's* June issue is what it calls a "special tuberculosis number" and contains much interesting reading on the cause and treatment of tuberculosis. Sir Samuel Wilks contributes a paper on the treatment of consumption. In his long career he has seen many remedies suggested by members of the profession for the disease arise and depart one after the other. The Ramadge method was the result of an observation that emphysema and consumption were incompatible, and therefore the cure of consumption was by producing emphysema which was to be produced by blowing through a special tube of his own construction. The Scudamore practice was to inhale iodine by a special method with the object of absorbing tubercles. Pancreas was then employed to emulsify the tubercle which was discovered to be crude aluminous matter which had failed to be emulsified by the pancreatic juice. Then came Niemeyer's treatment with a pill of quinine, digitalis, and opium; the phthisical condition being looked upon as accidental, the true pathological and destructive process being an inflammatory one. Oxygen gas, it was then argued, should be useful, as tubercle was nothing more than unconsumed carbon. Then came Koch's discovery of a microbe in tubercle, and the rush to find an antidote to the bacillus. The patient's bowels were inflated with sulphuretted hydrogen, and after being thus blown up it was said the patient generally expressed himself as feeling better. Carbolic acid, creosote, and like substances were also tried, but the results are not encouraging. Then came tuberculin—another failure, but one which never had a thorough trial. Sir Samuel Wilks concludes his extremely readable article with the remarkable sentence, "The only remedies I know for consumption are air and sunshine—air, air, fresh air." Dr. Ransome follows with an article on differing susceptibility to tuberculosis. Civilisation seems to predispose to consumption, nomads and tent-dwellers escaping entirely. The native races of recently-colonised places are peculiarly subject to this disease, due, Mr. Archdale Reid thinks, to native races not having acquired a certain amount of protective power which races long subject to it obtain. Immunity from consumption is found in deserts, Arctic regions, and mountain plateaux, due, to some extent, to sparse population, but as a rule to the very dry atmosphere prevailing in those districts. Other articles which follow also point to the benefit derived from the "open-air" treatment of Falkenstein and Dettweiler, in which patients pass all the day in sheltered open-air huts. Dr. Burton-Fanning, of Norwich, has made a successful trial of the system at the Convalescent Home of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, near Cromer. Falkenstein thought that an elevated position was necessary, but Dettweiler found that it was not so much the high altitude of the sanatorium as the purity of the air and freedom from organic germs. For this reason desert climate, such as the Egyptian desert, the South African climate, and ocean voyages are popular. Until, however, a sufficient number of sanatoria can be erected, drugs must continue to be used in the ordinary conditions under which the disease is met with in this country. At the Brompton Hospital there is a large run

on a simple soda-and-gentian mixture with 3-minim doses of hydrocyanic acid, which does a lot of good in restoring the appetite and digestion. Cod-liver oil has, according to Dr. Mackenzie, quadrupled the average duration of life of phthistical patients, and yet in 1839 it was so little known that the *London Medical Gazette*, referring to the use of ol. jecoris aselli in Berlin, said it was unknown to what ingredient ass's liver-oil owed its efficacy, but perhaps it was due to the presence of a small quantity of creosote. The practice at Brompton is only to give the oil in small doses; larger doses than one or two teaspoonfuls are seldom given. The popularity of petroleum-emulsion seems due to its soothing action on the irritable pharyngeal condition. Creosote has, according to Professor Sommerbrodt, a specific action in tuberculosis, his opinion being based on 5,000 cases treated with it. Guaiacol, creosotal, guaiacol carbonate, and benzozol are advocated as substitutes for creosote—they cause less gastric irritation. The hypophosphites of lime, soda, &c., are much used, but Dr. Mackenzie thinks with little evidence that they have any special action. Nuclein from yeast has been tried, and the Backerine treatment with yeast is being perfected. These, with ichthyol, garlic, cinnamic acid, are but a few of the drugs of the extensive Pharmacopoeia for pulmonary tuberculosis. Much good will probably be done by sanitary authorities when prevention by legislation becomes recognised; the supervision of meat and milk supplies, the housing problem, and a sanitary surveillance of tuberculosis as adopted in New York are the methods by which the best results are likely to be attained.

ANOTHER CHANCE MISSED.

In gelatin-coating pills, or in making capsules, pharmacists have often noticed threads of gelatin linking them together and making Siamese twins and triplets of them, or perhaps floating out into the air like a spider's casting-line. They were only recognised as a nuisance, and were got rid of as speedily as possible. Now we learn that these spidery threads were the clue to a fortune if only we had taken the hint and followed it up, as Mr. Millar, of Glasgow, has done. Mr. Millar is a silk-worker, and silk, in addition to being expensive, is, at least partly, composed of a kind of gelatin. Many experiments have been made with all sorts of fibres, including gun-cotton, in the endeavour to provide a cheap and effective substitute for the natural product of the silk-worm. And at last, by the simple process of first dyeing the gelatin to the required shade, and passing suitable belts over the melted mass so as to draw it out into threads, this artificial silk is made. The threads dry quickly, and are then treated with formalin, which is said to render them insoluble. As both material and working are inexpensive the silk can be sold at a very low rate compared with the real silk. We may, therefore, soon see ladies dressed in extract of hoofs, bones, and skin-parings, dyed in the rainbow-hues obtained from the refuse of our gasworks, and fastened with ornamental buttons got by the manipulation of old rags—a truly economical outfit. It only remains to work up this same gelatin, or glue, with, say, cocoa-fibre and bichromate or formalin to make sole-leather, while the silk, dyed black or brown, can easily be worked into uppers, so that ladies may have shoes to match their dresses and ribbons. The proverb used to be, "There is nothing like leather," but apparently we now need a new version—viz., "Nothing like gelatin." Leather is leather, when it's not pasteboard; but gelatin is gum (in glycerin jujubes), glass or collodion (in photographic plates and films), sealing-wax for corks, cement, varnish, jellies, sweetmeats, food, and now clothing—and ornamental clothing too. What's "bred in the bone" when

it is gelatin is a good thing; but, all the same, chemists have missed another chance.

A DISTINGUISHED STRANGER.

A distinguished American chemist has been visiting us. This is what the *American Druggist* said about him:—

Ed. G. Wells, who sails for Europe on May 3, will carry with him numerous letters of introduction to the crowned heads of Europe. His friend, Ed. Hammer, gives him a short personal note to Queen Victoria, and he will meet Emperor Francis Joseph under the pleasant auspices of a personal note of introduction from Dr. Chauncey, DeP. Lance. Arthur Stilwell has promised to use his good offices with the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grocer to assure a warm welcome for the redoubtable representative of the only peptomangan gude.

Ed. did not call on us.

"ARRIVED—FRESH CONSIGNMENT."

That is what we read at the head of an advertisement in a Blantyre B.C.A. paper; and amongst the items are Brand's A1 sauce, bovril, vinolia soaps, Anglo-Swiss milk, and carbolic disinfecting-powder. Ten years ago Blantyre was not on the advertisers' books; now the people out there want all the luxuries that we have at home, and they get them. It was a chief round there about who said:—"I know what happens to our poor country. First comes missionary—well, he very good man; he write book. Then come Consul; he write home. Then come merchant; he very good man, he buy nuts. Then come governor; well—he writes to Queeny, she send him back—she send man-o'-war. Our country done spoil—no more of our poor place left."

UNORDERED GOODS.

We are a good deal surprised at Judge Addison's interpretation of the law at Southwark County Court. We do not know on what authority he lays on the retailer any obligation to send back goods which he has not ordered. Commissioner Kerr has often told suitors in his court that if a tailor sends him a coat which he did not order, it is no business of his to send the coat back. Still less need he write to the tailor, or write to him again if the tailor does not reply to the first letter. But Judge Addison says he must do all this; and in the particular case before him he decided against the chemist because, he said, he had not sufficiently repudiated the goods or rejected them, as the law required. We should much like to know what law requires anyone to put himself to any trouble or expense—even that of a postage-stamp—to repudiate an order which he never gave? It may be as well to add that this comment is quite general. We assume that the plaintiffs in the case quite understood the goods were duly ordered, and it may be that the Judge took that view; but this in no way affects his statement of the law.

WHAT IS CHLORODYNE?

This is a question which was answered in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* many years ago, when the almost unanimous opinion of the drug-trade decided that Collis Browne's article is the proper thing to give. However, some of the medical profession appear to think that anything which is called chlorodyne is chlorodyne. Mr. D. J. Freeman, L.R.C.P., of Brighton, writes to the *Lancet* recording a case of chlorodyne-poisoning in which a woman of 53 swallowed a ninepenny bottle of chlorodyne, which contained an ounce, and tells how she recovered under his treatment from the overdose. Mr. Freeman concludes with the remark, "No two samples of chlorodyne obtained from separate sources are alike; hence, perhaps, the difference of results, &c., from poisoning by chlorodyne." There seems no doubt at all that the stuff Mr. Freeman's patient had taken was not Dr. Collis Browne's, and it would have been interesting, seeing that Dr. Thomas Stevenson's case of a young lady who was poisoned with 2 dr. of the original article is contrasted with Mr. Freeman's,

had some particulars been given of the exact strength of the article swallowed in this case.

THE U.S. WAR-TAX ON PROPRIETARIES.

Among the special taxes imposed by the U.S. Legislature to meet the cost of the war with Spain, one was agreed to on proprietary articles. It turns out to be almost absurdly insignificant. It is "not so bad as it might be," says the *Pharmaceutical Era*. The same journal remarks: "The drug-trade was perfectly willing to bear its share of the burden of taxation necessitated by the war, but it did not want to be overtaxed." So it fought against the Senate's proposal of four cents on the dollar article, and offered one cent—a halfpenny where we on this side pay sixpence. The result is a compromise fixing the tax at $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per dollar, and the *Era* announces that "the drug-trade is fairly well satisfied with this reduction, and will pay its stamp-taxes willingly and promptly"—a very pleasant and proper sort of feeling; but as the whole proceeds of the tax will not probably pay the cost of the saltpetre consumed in a single day's fighting, it would seem that the occasion for the sentiment might have been better chosen. The stamps are to be graduated to the price of the article, and are to be at the rate of one-eighth of a cent per five cents retail price. This rate is applicable to all proprietary medicinal articles, perfumery, and cosmetics. Chewing-gum is to pay four cents on every package of the retail value of one dollar or less. Sparkling and other wines are specially taxed at the rate of one cent per pint. The tax is cleverly sugar-coated to the advertising fraternity by the provision that "manufacturers of proprietary medicinal preparations and articles have the privilege of furnishing their own designs for special revenue-stamps." Will not this give the opportunity for linking the Kickapoo Indian with the American Eagle and the Stars and Stripes?

Cannabinol.

MESSRS. WOOD, SPIVEY, AND EASTERFIELD by further investigation on this substance find that it is a mixture. In a communication to the Chemical Society they state that the crystalline acetyl-derivative to which they assigned the formula $C_{21}H_{31}O_2$ is found by molecular-weight determinations to possess the formula $C_{23}H_{33}O_2$. This conclusion is supported by other means. Most of the samples of cannabinol examined have yielded about 20 per cent. of the crystalline acetyl-compound, together with an oily acetyl-derivative containing a lower percentage of carbon. The compound $C_{23}H_{33}O_2$ resulting from hydrolysis boils at $280-290^\circ$ C. under 80 mm. pressure, and yields a bright yellow, crystalline nitro-derivative, $C_{23}H_{33}N_3O_8$, which melts at 160° with decomposition, has acid properties, and gives characteristic ammonium, potassium, and silver salts which are sparingly soluble in water, but dissolve easily in alcohol, and have the general formula $C_{23}H_{33}N_3O_8M$. The sodium salt is comparatively soluble and crystallises with 4 molecular proportions of water. On reduction the nitro-compound yields a corresponding base. Hot fuming nitric acid oxidises the nitro-compound to nitrocannabinolactone (oxycannabin), a mixture of acids being produced at the same time. Amidocannabinolactone, $C_{11}H_{11}NH_2O_2$, has been diazotised and converted into a crystalline iodolactone, $C_{11}H_{11}IO_2$, which melts at 137.5° and can be sublimed. On removal of iodine from this compound by the action of sodium amalgam an oily lactone is obtained.

"'PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULAS' is worth its weight in gold," writes *Lyndhurst* (222/65), [160*l*; our price, 7*s*. 6*d*.]

THE SUMMER NUMBER OF THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST will be published on Saturday, July 30, 1898. Advertisers who wish particulars in regard to it should address the Publisher of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Practical Notes and Formulae.

IODISED OIL.

IN making iodised oil, Schmidt (Nantes) recommends the iodine 16 gr. to be rubbed in a mortar with sodium iodide 4 gr. and glycerine 2 drops before adding the oil.

ELIXIR OF CALISAYA.

	Parts
Coriander-seeds (bruised) ...	1
Cardamom-seeds (bruised)...	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Cloves (bruised) ...	2
Orange-flowers (chopped) ...	2
Red sanderswood (bruised) ...	2
Star-anise (bruised)...	5
Cinnamon (in coarse powder) ...	12
Bitter-orange peel (chopped) ...	15
Yellow cinchona-bark (bruised) ...	36
Proof spirit ...	400
Water ...	400

Make a tincture, and add to it—

Simple syrup ...	400
Saccharin ...	$\frac{1}{10}$

Mix, set aside for eight days, decant, and filter.

The liquids as well as the solids are to be weighed.

TAMARIND-ESSENCE.

	Parts
Tamarind-extract (Dieterich's) ...	50
Senna-leaves (bruised small) ...	40
Sugar ...	30
Albumen solution (5 per cent.) ...	20
Rectified spirit ...	43
Orange-flower water... ..	3
Water to	350

Liquids to be weighed. Macerate the senna in water for twelve hours, and press out gently 200 parts of liquor, to which add the extract, sugar, and albumen solution; boil, and to the cooled liquor add the spirit and orange-flower water. Filter.

LIQUOR HEMALBUMINI.

	Parts
Hæmalbumin... ..	30
Water	652

Dissolve by warming, and to the solution add—

Simple syrup ...	200
Rectified spirit ...	100
Aromatic saccharin solution ...	8
Arrack... ..	7
Sweet spirit of nitre... ..	2
Bitter-almond sugar ...	
Rose-sugar ...	
Cummarin-sugar ...	

Dissolve, and filter.

Liquids to be weighed.

LIQUOR SACCHARINI AROMATICUS.

	Parts
Saccharin	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Vanillin	$\frac{1}{2}$
Absolute alcohol	95

Dissolve, and add—

Cinnamon oil... ..	2
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Shake and filter.

All by weight.

AROMATISED COD-LIVER OIL.

Saccharin solution ...	1 oz.
Cod-liver oil ...	49 oz.

Mix.

AROMATISED CASTOR OIL.

Same proportions as the above

These are German formulas, which we translate from *Pharmaceutische Centralhalle*. If the compounder desires to measure the liquids, he will find the quantities by dividing the respective numbers of parts by the sp. gr. of the liquids.

The Galenical Preparations of the New British Pharmacopœia.

By JOHN C. UMNEY, F.C.S.

GALENICAL LIQUORS.

THE galenical liquors are of considerable interest on account of the inclusion for the first time of a class of preparations intended to correspond "with the liquids which manufacturers have termed concentrated decoctions and infusions." These are the words of the preface of the Pharmacopœia, which states also that "many experiments have been made with the object of preparing the three decoctions and twenty-two infusions of the Pharmacopœia in highly concentrated states." "Some," it is stated, "of these compounds underwent deterioration on keeping, or were wanting in flavour and aroma, and accordingly rejected. Nine of the more successful have been admitted into the Pharmacopœia as liquores concentrati, and the products on their dilution with water may be prescribed by practitioners in place of the corresponding official infusions. One concentrated decoction has been included. The diluted liquors differ in minor respects from freshly prepared decoctions or infusions, and contain a small quantity of ethylic alcohol."

To consider this paragraph *seriatim*, is the name "liquor" the most favourable that could have been selected? Is it well applied to a galenical preparation prepared by percolation or maceration? It is not so much in the Latin title that the objection appears as in the English rendering—for example, "Concentrated solution of calumba." In my opinion the name "essence" might well have been employed, especially as the spirituous solutions of oils under that name have been omitted, and the title could have been extended to certain sweet essences—such as cascara and senna—which, although entitled syrups, hardly comply with that designation. I prefer, too, the title of "sweet essence," to "elixir," which latter class some had anticipated would be included. It cannot, moreover, be said that the compounds selected are the most satisfactory ones so far as keeping properties are concerned, and certainly they are not by any means most in demand. Having had some considerable opportunity for observing the proportions of sale of these concentrated liquors, I have compiled the following table, from which may be seen at a glance the relative proportions of sale of these concentrated preparations calculated in ratio to that of the one most largely sold—compound gentian—and the figures represent a sale extending over the whole of the United Kingdom, Ireland, and abroad:—

Table showing Proportionate Demand of Concentrated Infusions.

Gent. co. conc. ...	100.0	Aurant. (simp.) ...	3.5
Calumbæ (*) ...	38.4	Aurant. co. ...	3.5
Senegæ (*) ...	24.2	Digitalis ...	2.2
Quassie (*) ...	12.6	Chiratae (*) ...	2.0
Rhei (*) ...	9.4	Anthemidis ...	1.8
Cascarillæ ...	6.5	Caryoph. ...	0.7
Buchu ...	6.3	Serpent. (*) ...	0.4
Rosæ acid ...	5.4	Cuspariæ (*) ...	0.1
Sennæ (*) ...	4.4	Krameriæ (*) ...	0.1

Note.—Those made official as "liquores concentrati" are marked with an asterisk.

It will be seen from this that two of the preparations included, those of cusparia and krameria, are not used to a thousandth part of the extent of the compound concentrated infusion of gentian, which does not find a place in the new work. Quite apart from this, it will be seen that many of the liquors which are in considerable demand are not made

official; especially is this noticeable in the case of cascarrilla and orange, both simple and compound.

It is also stated in the preface that one concentrated decoction has been included. It is true that a liquor has been included corresponding to the compound decoction of sarsaparilla which was official in the 1885 Pharmacopœia, but this is not now included in its dilute form, and the statement, therefore, needs some slight modification. The strength of the preparation also which is now included is only eight times that of the decoction of the 1885 Pharmacopœia, whilst all the other liquores concentrati are ten times the strength of the corresponding ordinary infusions.

Considerable difficulty will no doubt arise as to the dispensing of infusions in the future. What rule is to be adopted? If a prescriber orders an infusion, is a freshly-made infusion to be dispensed unless the contrary be specified, or a liquor diluted in the proportion of 1 to 9? The answer will probably be that where there is sufficient demand to prepare the infusions freshly, they should be employed, which has been the method generally followed in later years in dispensing.

The strength of 1 to 9 is a particularly unfortunate one. From the point of view of the decimal system it is well, but from the dispenser's point of view it will meet with very considerable opposition. The dilution of 1 dr. to an ounce was handy, easily remembered, and admitted of no difficulty whatever. Unfortunately, too, from the manufacturer's point of view, the 1-to-9 infusion is not by any means perfection. In some of the cases the drug may not be exhausted unless the greatest precautions are taken, and the keeping-properties are not at all perfect, especially as regards continued depositing, and it would have been far better if the strength selected had been 1 to 4 if it was decided that there was any necessity for departing from the accepted strength of 1 to 7, which has become so popular amongst retail chemists.

The doses of these concentrated liquors have been made uniformly $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 fl. dr., with the exception of liq. serpentariæ, and in this particular case the dose has been made $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 fl. dr. I know of no good reason for this difference.

The general process for the preparation of these galenical liquors is by percolation with 20-per-cent. spirit, although slightly different processes are adopted in certain cases, which will be alluded to under the heading of each preparation.

Liquor Calumbæ Conc.—The instructions if followed in detail yield a preparation that appears to keep fairly satisfactorily, although it does deposit for some considerable time after preparation. The brightness of it depends, however, very much upon the completeness of clarification at a temperature of 180° F. The proportion of spirit added makes the final alcoholic strength of the preparation practically identical with that of the other liquors. It is recommended that the preparation be allowed to subside, and the clear liquor decanted rather than filtered.

Liquor Caoutchouc.—The preparation is similar to that contained in the United States Pharmacopœia and included in the monograph in that work for charta sinapis. It is also included in the British Pharmacopœia for employment in the same preparation. It will be noted that in the United States Pharmacopœia benzol or petroleum ether is used both for the extraction of the fixed oil from the mustard seeds as well as the solvent of india-rubber. In the British Pharmacopœia benzol is employed. These are two totally different solvents, the U.S.P. "benzin" consisting of hydrocarbons of the marsh gas series (C_3H_{12} , &c.), sp. gr. .670–.675, while benzol is a mixture of benzene C_6H_6 , and toluol $C_6H_5CH_3$, sp. gr. .880–.883. The solution is in no way comparable to

the liquor gutta-percha of the 1835 Pharmacopœia, and although I have had a quantity in preparation for two months the mixture even now contains partially dissolved rubber, and is exceedingly difficult to handle.

Liquor Epispasticus.—The doubling of the proportion of cantharides produces a preparation which, so far as my observation goes, is considerably stronger than that of the former Pharmacopœia, for the amount of solvent employed appears to perfectly exhaust the additional quantity of cantharides. By reference to the paper of Professor Greenish, read at an evening meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society (See THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, March 12, page 421), it will be noted that the proportion of cantharidin present in the preparation is not nearly the possible quantity that acetic ether will retain in solution. It must be borne in mind, however, that the acetic ether of the present Pharmacopœia differs very considerably from that of the 1835 Pharmacopœia, and on this account differences will be noted in the blistering action of preparations of cantharides made with acetic ether B.P. 1898. There can be no question that free acetic acid plays an important part in the blistering effect of this class of preparation.

Liquor Hamamelidis (Solution of Hamamelis).—A more unsuitable name could scarcely have been selected. Why not "distilled spirit of hamamelis?" It is also not easy to divine the reason for the inclusion of a process for the preparation of this article, as it cannot be prepared in this country. It would have been sufficient simply to have given characters and tests by which the correct alcoholic strength of the product could have been determined. As our knowledge of the preparation ends there, it is, in my opinion, doubtful whether it should have been made official without more definite information as to the volatile constituents upon which its medicinal properties are based.

Liquor Pancreatis.—The preparation as made official will probably not be one which will be made on a retail scale by the pharmacist, and therefore it may be of some interest to note that a preparation corresponding in peptonising power with the requirements of the British Pharmacopœia may be prepared by macerating for twenty-four hours 1 to 1½ oz. of pancreatin answering the characters and tests of the United States Pharmacopœia in 1 pint of 20-per-cent. alcohol. It should be noticed in reference to the test that the instructions of the British Pharmacopœia differ slightly from those of the United States Pharmacopœia, the temperature of digestion in the Brit. Pharm. being 45° C. and in the United States Pharmacopœia 38° C. It should also be noted that the nitric acid should be added to the milk at about the temperature of digestion, and not previously cooled.

Liquor Picis Carb.—The Brit. Pharm. Conf. formula has been adopted, and it is curious that for the purpose of this preparation a tincture of quillaia of different alcoholic and bark strength has to be prepared than that official as tincture, presumably for medicinal purposes. So far as I know, however, a tincture of quillaia is but little employed medicinally, except in some instances, and rarely for the purpose of making emulsions.

Liquor Rhei Conc.—This preparation does not appear to be at first sight satisfactory. The rhubarb is not completely exhausted of colour by the quantity of solvent indicated, but I have had experiments conducted on the same sample of rhubarb in order to determine the relative proportions of extractive yielded to water and 20-per-cent alcohol in varying proportions. The strength of the simple infusion, together with those prepared of different strengths to a pint are indicated in the following table.

Rhubarb Strength	Solvent	Sp. gr. at 15° C.	Extractive per cent.
4 oz. in pint	20 % alcohol	.999	4.9
7½ " "	" "	1.011	8.54
10 " "	" "	1.017	13.9
1 " "	" Water	1.012	3.28

It is evident that although the whole of the colouring-matter of the rhubarb is not removed, yet practically the whole of the extractive is obtained, the amount present in a 1-in-2 concentrated liquor being quite proportionate to one of 1-in-5 strength. In no case, however, is the extractive proportionate to the simple infusion, and altogether the subject of comparison of extractives of simple and concentrated infusions is one worthy of complete investigation.

Liquor Sarsæ Co. Conc.—This, presumably, is the preparation intended to represent one of the decoctions according to the preface to the Pharmacopœia. Its strength is practically eight times that of the 1835 Pharmacopœia, although it will differ somewhat from the preparations hitherto sold by wholesale druggists and others in containing decorticated liquorice and a slightly additional quantity of alcohol. The temperature of exhaustion is a good one, and the preparation is in every respect satisfactory.

Liquor Senegæ Conc.—In this preparation the solvent is slightly strongly than in the other concentrated solutions. I have found by experiment that an alcohol of 20-per-cent. strength produces a preparation very prone to deposit on changes of temperature, and although, so far as my observation goes, this is to some extent the case with the 23-per-cent. alcohol now employed, still it does, at any rate, partly obviate the difficulty.

Liquor Sennæ Conc.—I have already referred under syrup of senna (*vide ante*, page 795) to the fact that this liquor is prepared by re-percolation, whilst the liquor for preparing the syrup is made by double maceration. There appears no reason for this difference, and it is evident from an examination of the two finished preparations that the one made by dilute alcohol keeps decidedly better. Whether it is equally active remains to be seen.

Liquor Thyroidei.—The method of preparation is very similar to that described by White, and although objections may be taken to the process, unless great precautions are taken in its preparation both in the selection of glands and also in the sterilising of the vessels employed, still it would not be easy to include in the Pharmacopœia a better process unless details of special apparatus to be employed were included.

Viewing the galenical liquors as a whole, it is, in my opinion, from some points of view unfortunate that the concentrated liquors corresponding to infusions were recognised at all, especially as such recognition is not in accordance with the customs of trade. The objections to the 1-to-9 liquors, both from the manufacturer's and from the dispenser's points of view, have been already referred to, and although manufacturers will doubtless sell preparations of 1-to-9 strength corresponding to the other infusions, still I imagine that in most cases they will adhere to the 1-to-7 preparations on account of their undoubted superior keeping-qualities. The omission of the liquor gentianæ co. conc. is a most important one. The figures that I have quoted indicate how much greater its use is than that of any of the other concentrated infusions; in fact, the figures indicate that it is used as much as the whole of the others put together. Under these circumstances, therefore, it does seem a pity that no formula was included that could represent more or less nearly the infusion in a diluted form.

Correspondence.

In writing letters for publication correspondents should adopt a concise, but not abbreviated, style. They are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Letters, with or without a nom-de-plume, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

Notice to Correspondents.

Queries should be written on separate pieces of paper, and the regulations printed under the sections to which they apply should be strictly observed.

Liquor Strychninæ Hydrochloridi, B.P. 1898.

SIR,—Mr. George Roe's statement in the *C. & D.* last week, page 1035, about the above solution depositing crystals requires corroboration. Who made his solution, and who checked his quantities? I have two specimens before me made on January 19, 1897, and checked by myself; one was prepared exactly as B.P. 1898, the other *sine* alcohol—a 1-per-cent. solution in sterilised distilled water for hypodermic injection. Both solutions were then exposed all night to a temperature near freezing-point—certainly under 40° F.—and did not crystallise. In fact, both are perfectly good and free from fungi at the present time.

This affords me the opportunity of noting a contribution by Mr. George Lunan to a contemporary last week, in which he draws attention to the "Extra Pharmacopœia," 9th edition, page 422, where it is stated that "this solution is one-tenth weaker than" the corresponding preparation of B.P. 1885. The latter, made in parts, was a so-called 1-per-cent. solution, of which, Mr. Lunan says, the new preparation "has only four-fifths the strychnine value." The new B.P. gives the formula for strychnine hydrochloride with two molecules of water; Regnault ("Watt's Dictionary," iv., page 518) gives it with 1½ aq. This shows the percentage of strychnine in it as 84.04. Mr. Lunan, by a somewhat lengthy deduction, makes out that, relatively, the new solution has only 80.6 per cent. the alkaloidal value of the old, and that it (the former) is one-fifth weaker, whereas, reckoning the hydrochloride according to Regnault's formula, it is less than one-sixth weaker. The advantage in slightly reducing the strength is that it prevents the deposition of crystals complained of when exposed to a low temperature. This deposition was shown to be increased by the acidity of the solution. By using the hydrochloride an excess of acid is avoided, and, from my experience in preparing several lots, the present official solution will not crystallise by any reasonable exposure to cold. The reduction in strength, moreover, has the further advantage in being on the side of safety, and medical practitioners have no cause to be alarmed at the slight alteration.

10 New Cavendish Street, W., WM. MARTINDALE.
June 25.

[Mr. George Lunan, Edinburgh, also informs us that in his experience the new solution does not crystallise, nor does it show the slightest tendency to do so.—ED. *C. & D.*]

The Poisonous Substances Bill.

SIR—Much do I value your remarks in the *C. & D.* of June 25 re the Poisons Bill now before Parliament.

Probably chemists do not yet realise that this Bill is based upon a new principle that may be ruinous to the trade.

The foundation of our position is the Poisons Act; this foundation is restricted to us. For that reason the public look upon us as a distinct class, and one that is of special value to the community (I may be told that it is dispensing which promotes this feeling, but I think it will be found that the poisons used in dispensing are the great factor). Now, under the new Bill we are to share this foundation with every class of trader. The fact that chemists will retain the exclusive right of sale of those poisons now on the schedule is of small moment, the important point being that, in the public mind, sellers of poisons will be chemists, grocers, oilmen, &c., and so our strong position will be gone.

I would urge upon chemists that we recognise—first, that cheap disinfectants, sometimes in small quantities, are an absolute necessity for the public welfare. Second, that the trade of the country cannot be injured for our

benefit; hence acids, &c., for trade purposes must be handled at small margin of profit. That the mineral acids for trade purposes—carbolic acid, &c.—be handled upon a commercial basis, as they would be handled by a grocer or oilman, and that they be not treated, as regards profit, on the same footing as the ordinary run of our business. It is only thus we can maintain our position as those who alone can, in the public interest, be trusted with the selling of poisons. Allow me to remind my fellow-chemists that, once a separate schedule of poisons, for sale by other traders, is established, we may soon hear of the transfer of poisons from one schedule to another; it may soon be contended that if grocers may sell a strong poison, such as carbolic acid, they may be trusted to sell patent medicines which contain such a small proportion of poison.

May I suggest that the chemists' case be tersely put by the Editor of the *C. & D.*, separate copies be enclosed with an issue of that journal, so that chemists may send the pamphlet to the M.P. representing their constituency, at the same time writing him expressing their concurrence with the views expressed therein? Truly yours,

Bromley Park, June 25. HENRY J. DEACON.

[This suggestion is carried out in this issue.—ED. *C. & D.*]

Have we a Right to a Monopoly?

SIR,—The following appears in your editorial of last week:—"To argue that we have a claim on the nation for anything like a monopoly because we have been good enough to go through a course of training, and certain examinations, is to misapprehend the spirit of the Pharmacy Act, which, it cannot be too clearly recognised, is a provision made not for chemists' interests, but by the nation for its own protection." Looked at from the point of view of those who make money out of the drug-trade without having being honourable enough to obtain a legal footing in it, this is excellent reasoning, no doubt; but looked at in the light of common sense there is neither rhyme nor reason in it.

I am not particularly concerned about the fate of the Bill introduced into the House of Lords by the Duke of Devonshire. I believe it will have the effect, if carried into law, of reducing the respect which exists in the public mind for poisons. The public have come to look upon poisons as dangerous substances, which can only be got from chemists, and the sale of which is hedged about with legal formalities of an awe-inspiring kind, and in this way a respect for poisons has sprung up which has been a better protection to the public than the Pharmacy Act can be. If the Government is willing to take the responsibility of breaking down this respect for poisons, we do not need to bother much about it.

I am concerned, however, about the tone of your editorial. Not long since, I believe, it was stated in a very influential quarter that the *C. & D.* is the most important organ of the drug-trade. Whether this is so or not, it is probable that the outside world will look upon the statement as being quite correct. I have always read the *C. & D.* with great interest; I consider its style and get-up exactly suited to the requirements of the drug-trade, and I would be the last to detract from its importance, even if I had the power to do so. If, however, the *C. & D.* is looked upon as being to a large extent the mouthpiece of the trade by outsiders, it is surely necessary that its views should in large measure coincide with those of the majority of the qualified men throughout the country.

Does your opinion, as expressed above, coincide with the opinions of the majority of qualified men, or does it only coincide with the opinions of those who are not qualified? Half the learned societies at the present time are labouring to show that this kind of teaching is wrong. The British and Irish Pharmaceutical Societies, the British Medical Association, the Dentists' Association, the Veterinary Society, have all given it as their opinion that where Government demands special qualification, protection must follow as a natural corollary. I quite agree with you when you say that the Pharmacy Act was passed in the interests of the public, but when the public demands special qualification in a man before it will trust him to deal in poisons, according to all common sense that means that a man who is without that qualification must not deal in poisons. No amount of sophistry can get over a palpable fact like that. You speak of the spirit of the Pharmacy Act. We have no need to fear that

spirit. Those who framed that Act never contemplated the possibility of unqualified men dealing in drugs, as cash chemists or any other kind of chemists. The Pharmacy Act gives no shadow of excuse for the existence of such men. No body of legislators would pass an Act demanding special qualification, and at the same time allowing non-qualified men to practise in the trade or profession so hedged about. The spirit and letter of the Pharmacy Act are alike on the side of the qualified man, and we all know it. You can call the thing monopoly, or protection, or any other name, but there it is, and it cannot be reasoned away.

Now that this question is opened, I think it would be well that it should be debated out. It is the very question which is facing all bodies of men who have undergone special training in the interests of the State. The question is, "Is it, or is it not, good law that a man who has qualified himself according to the demands and in the interests of the State should be free in the exercise of his calling from the harassing competition of men who have not qualified?" I put the question thus plainly in order that those who may take up the gauntlet may make no mistake about the point at issue.

JAMES REID.

Dumfries.

The Medical Council and Munyon.

SIR,—As an admirer of your ability as a journalist, and one who fully appreciates your power of argument, I am somewhat reluctant to criticise your views in relation to "The Medical Council v. Munyon"; but, after reading your articles, it does appear to me that you avoid the gist of the whole matter. It presents itself to me that the Medical Council consider that the system of diagnosis adopted by the doctor in question is a sham, and hence he is guilty of "infamous conduct."

I am not arguing in favour of the powers now possessed by the Medical Council, and feel sure you are not an advocate of the form of diagnosis pursued by Mr. Hart.

Truly yours,

HENRY J. DEACON.

The Artificial Future.

SIR,—We dig up the jawbones of our ancestors with all the teeth firmly fixed in them, but worn down from a long life's chewing and grinding to the old-gum level. Our posterity will in due course dig up our jawbones with all the teeth present also, not worn down at all, and still more firmly fixed—on metal and composition plates; for does not the dentist thrive in the land? A blessing, too, for most of us, from a point of beauty; but it has been very truly and pertinently pointed out that his special ministrations are not an unmixed benefit, in that the presence of a powerful mechanical cutting and chewing apparatus in elderly mouths is very apt to lead to the eating of too much and unsuitable food. More meat, for instance, will be taken than would be the case had it to be masticated with worn or defective teeth or toothless gums. The teeth are those of early youth, the stomach may be fifty, sixty, or seventy years old, and there is thus a lack of balance which must lead to trouble. The stomach should also be renewed, and that would lead to the necessity for the renewal of some other vital organ; in short, there would have to be an entire rebuilding upon modern and scientific principles. It may eventually come to that: who knows? And possibly the humour in one of Mark Twain's latest remarks, "that he wished his liver and carbuncles were also false like the teeth," may to a future age have lost its point in that they by then will be false, and readily repairable or renewable when they get out of order.

Newport.

J. REES.

Beware of the Unfortunate Young Man.

SIR,—Perhaps an account of a recent experience of mine may prevent others from being imposed upon. Advertising in one of the trade journals for an assistant, among the replies received was one from a person who, after stating various things flattering to himself, referred me to his present employer, to whom I wrote; and, receiving a most favourable reply, I engaged him to come on a certain date. On the day when he should have made his appearance a letter arrived, stating that, owing to the sudden death of his brother, and having an invalid sister on his hands, and

no parents, he would be obliged to defer his coming for a few days in order to make arrangements for the funeral—saying he would come without fail immediately that was over. A day or two after another letter came, stating that, after paying all the funeral-expenses, &c., he was afraid he would not have enough cash left to bring him to his destination; and, as he was coming to me as assistant, would I oblige him with an advance of 20s.? I sent him the money, and appointed another day for his coming; but on that day was informed that, while on his way to the railway-station to come to me, he had slipped on some orange-peel and sprained his ankle, which would detain him for another week or ten days. I now began to feel suspicious, and caused certain inquiries to be made by the police, who ascertained that the testimonial sent me was a sham, and the story about the dead brother, invalid sister, and sprained ankle a tissue of lies. He appears to have been carrying this on for some time, making engagements he never intended to keep, getting an advance of money, putting off his employer from time to time by various invented lies, until the employer becomes disgusted and says, "Bother the fellow! I'll have nothing more to do with him"; and the impostor in most cases succeeds in retaining the money advanced. In my case he evidently got wind of the inquiries which were being made, for he returned the 20s. in a great hurry, thinking, no doubt, by doing so, he would escape being prosecuted for obtaining money by fraud and false pretences. He may still be punished for the attempt, as he deserves to be; and this letter will put other chemists on their guard against being duped in a similar way.

Yours truly,

SOUTH WALES. (217/72)

The Training of the Chemist.

SIR,—I, as well as your correspondent "Student," read with interest your notice of M. Lemaitre's lecture on modern education in your issue of June 11.

"Student" says: "At school a student is taught a mass of facts concerning various subjects, but the principles underlying them, or how to apply his knowledge in future life he is not taught." Later on in his letter he says: "Chemistry is the chief stumbling-block in the Minor examination, because it is the one subject that requires most thought, and the student, never having been taught to think, finds it hard to begin now."

I do not know at what school "Student" was educated, but if it was at a school having any pretensions to such a name, he would, I should have thought, learn algebra and Euclid. At the public school at which I was educated every boy in the school over about twelve years of age learnt Euclid, or tried to learn it; and if doing "Riders" does not teach you to think, what ever will teach you?

"Student" refers to the fact that many candidates for the Minor examination have only the few hours they can get at night, after ten hours or so behind a counter, in which to get up the subjects. That is just the cause of their failure; if they went to a school of pharmacy, they would have chemistry put in an entirely different light to that which they have by simply reading books when the mind is fagged after a hard day's work. And that is what we want students to do—go to a school of pharmacy, and go through a course of instruction in the various subjects.

There should be a compulsory curriculum of three years at some recognised school, and the subjects should be passed either singly or in pairs, a student not being allowed to go on to other subjects until he had passed in the previous ones. Of course, the knowledge required of a student would be considerably more than that required now. There may be objections raised to this as to how the poorer students are going to manage. My answer is, we want to raise the standard of a qualified pharmacist, and this is the only way I can see that it is able to be done.

Yours truly,

17 Bloomsbury Square.

SCHIVEN. (223 41.)

Held Over.

Several letters, Dispensing Notes, and many replies to correspondents have been crowded out. Letters for publication should be received by the Editor not later than Wednesday.

Legal Queries.

We do not give legal opinions by post. Information regarding most legal matters in connection with pharmacy will be found in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, and in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," and Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty."

216/3. *Deeside* puts this question:—"If I am asked for a box of cold-cream, must I supply rose-water ointment, B.P. 1898, or what?" By all means sell only what you have been accustomed to sell for "cold-cream." That is not a B.P. title; but now that an article similar to the cold-cream of trade is recognised by the Pharmacopœia, it is highly desirable that the trade should see to it that "cold-cream" does not become a synonym for that article, or that it should be considered as anything else than "rose-water ointment." The fate of "milk of sulphur" and "sweet spirit of nitre" is a warning.

218/39. *Omega*.—The Act, as you know, places emetic tartar in Part I. of the schedule, and therefore requires registration of each sale. Several cases have shown that where poison is sold in a mixture that is equivalent to selling the poison itself. Consequently, it is clear that, in strict law, when you sell a pig-powder containing a small dose of emetic tartar you are required not only to label it "Poison," but also to register the sale.

218/16. *Mafar*.—If you can satisfy a court (as we think you can) that a month's notice is the custom of the trade, you should get that allowed you. The intervals of payment prove nothing.

214/4. *J. F.*—A methylated-spirit retailer's licence cannot be granted to distillers, rectifiers, or retailers of beer, spirits, wine, or sweets for consumption on the premises. Under the powers conferred on them for the enforcement of regulations in regard to the sale of methylated spirit, the Board of Inland Revenue grant a methylated-spirit retailer's licence to a spirit-retailer or dealer, not for consumption on the premises, only on condition that the methylated spirit is kept and sold in sealed quart bottles. No justice's certificate is required for a methylated-spirit licence. Apply to the nearest Inland Revenue officer or supervisor, who will furnish full particulars as to the method of obtaining the licence.

220/4. *Anglo-Celt*.—In the case of an error made by an assistant the person who actually made the error would be the one to be prosecuted criminally, if there should be ground for so doing, but the owner of the business would, in all such cases, be liable for civil damages. In the event of an assistant failing to fulfil the requirements of the Pharmacy Act as to the labelling or registration of the sale of poisons, the proprietor ("the person on whose behalf the sale is made") is liable to the penalty.

220/64. *C. T. S.*—The sulphocyanides are not regarded as coming within the poisons-schedule.

222/54. *Canth*.—Tincture of cantharides is a scheduled poison, and according to the decisions, if any of it is contained in a hair-preparation, that preparation should be labelled "Poison." We are, however, disposed to think that an exception would be made in this case, because there is evidence that only "vesicating liquid preparations of cantharides" are intended to be included.

223/27. *Studio*.—We do not think you would be justified in claiming 3s. for the hire of an article the selling-price of which is 1s., but if your customer insists on paying that way there is not much more to be said.

223/53. *Queros*.—Advertising a colouring-powder cannot make you liable to prosecution under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. Nor do we see how selling it can. It would not need a medicine-stamp, we should think, but your questions are altogether too vague.

215/26. *Refreshment*.—We do not know where you get the information that a refreshment-house must be kept between the hours of 10 P.M. and 5 A.M.

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We reply to subscribers and their employés only upon subjects of interest to other readers generally. When more than one query is sent write each on a separate piece of paper. When a sample accompanies a query full particulars regarding the origin and use of the sample must be given, and it must be distinctly labelled. Queries are not replied to by post, and those sent anonymously are disregarded.

216/18. *Metric* wonders why it is that the metric weights vary so much in the new B.P. "In some cases 1 oz. (solid) equals 20 grammes, in some 25, and in others 50. Same with the liquids: in lin. saponis, alcohol 90 per cent. 1 oz. is equal to 20 c.c.; in lin. sinapis, 1 oz. alcohol 90 per cent. is equal to about 10.7 c.c. He is puzzled when the difference is so great." In reply, we quote the following from our article on the B.P., April 16, page 627:—

Absolute equivalence between the Imperial and metric terms in the formulæ is not claimed. "Except for wholly insignificant fractional differences, a preparation made according to either system will contain the same proportions of ingredients."

The B.P. Editor must have had a difficult task to get every article in the formulas into fairly round metric numbers, but that would have been impossible had he attempted to make the metric quantities equivalent to the Imperial. What he has done makes the proportional quantities identical, and he practically says so in the B.P. itself.

209/66. *E. G. G.*—The pink coloration of the wrapping-paper used for tartaric acid is due to the action of the acid on the blueing substance used for neutralising the yellow colour of the paper.

193/26. *E. J. B.*—(1) *Ess. Vanillæ* (see *C. & D.*, December 11, 1897, page 937). "Pharmaceutical Formulas" contains several other recipes. (2) We will turn up the information.

190/73. *Ink*.—It is difficult to give you satisfactory advice as to restoring writing obliterated by medicine being spilt on it, but you might try the effect of weak solutions of ammonia fumes and ammonium sulphide alternately.

196/22. *Mac*.—One-solution Developer—See *C. & D.*, January 23, 1897, page 140; and February 13, 1897, page 292.

193/34. *Thanks*.—The following solution of Paris Green is used for destroying American bug on vines. It is applied by means of a brush:—Five parts of verdigris are made into a thin paste with water, and to this is added a boiling solution of 4 parts of arsenic in 50 parts of water, keeping the mixture at the boiling temperature, and adding a little acetic acid to make the solution clear.

217/28. *Revog*.—The preparation we believe you refer to was said some time ago in the *C. & D.* to be a pretroleum-preparation.

205/50, *Buff*; 214/58, *Pomade*.—Eyelash-pomade:—

Hydrarg. biniodidi ...	...	...	gr. ij.
Cere albae ...	...	...	ʒiiss.
Adipis ...	...	...	ʒviiss.
Ol. hyacinthi ...	...	...	mj.

Melt the wax and lard together, allow to cool, and add the other ingredients.

The pomade is sometimes sold in three colours, in which case the black is managed with a little lampblack and the brown with umber.

195/44. *W. & S.*—We have wrestled with the prescription-puzzle you sent, but cannot make anything of it.

193/31. *Xylem*.—Your best way will be to refer to "Pharmaceutical Formulas," where there are some hundreds of good perfume-recipes.

214/37. *Argon*.—The following is the method of determining the number of Bacteria in Water. To a tube con-

taining melted sterile nutrient gelatine, at a temperature of about 27° C., '02 to 5 c.c. (according to its purity) of the sample of water is added. The cotton-wool plug is then replaced, and the contents of the tube agitated, and after thoroughly mixing poured on to a sterile glass plate. The plate is then allowed to stand at a temperature of about 22° C., and examined daily, the counting of the colonies taking place on the third or fourth day by means of Wolff-Lügel's apparatus. This consists of a glass plate, divided into squares, each 1 cm. square, some of the squares being subdivided. The plate or dish is laid under this scale, and by counting the number of colonies in a few of the squares, and taking an average, the number of organisms present is found. In Pearmain and Moor's "Applied Bacteriology" (Baillière), of which a second edition is just published, you will find fuller particulars than we have space for here.

144/11. *R. H.*—The "wonderful killer of blackbeetles" has a composition as follows:—

Arsenic	...	...	...	...	1/2 oz.
Sugar	...	...	...	...	1 oz.
Armenian bole	...	...	...	...	q.s.
Wheat-meal	...	...	...	...	4 oz.

It is, as you say, efficacious, but dangerous to have about.

192/58. *Creta*; 207/20. *K. M. H.*—Your samples of *Scour-specific* are the same, and prepared as follows:—

<i>Cretæ præparatæ</i>	...	...	...	...	3iv.
<i>P. cateclau</i>	...	...	...	...	3j.

M.

171/33. *Killie*.—The suppositories contain, besides boric acid, one or more vegetable powders, of which we can only identify *hydrastis canadensis*.

186/17. *Ointment*.—The "cooling, strengthening, and emollient" ointment for the feet is a mixture of hard and soft paraffin, scented.

196/55. *G. T. D.*—The *Face-lotion* has been made by rubbing down *crème d'amandes* with glycerin and water, and perfuming with white rose and heliotropin.

204/15. *Rad. Gent.*—The *Styptic Wool* has been prepared by impregnating absorbent cotton-wool with perchloride of iron.

210/69. *J. S. D. (N.Z.)*.—The *Headache-cachets* contain 8 gr. of phenacetin with about an equal quantity of sugar.

213/7. *Génova*.—*Ergotin de Yvon*.—The following formula is an imitation of this preparation used for hypodermic injection:—

Ergotin, previously freed of its oil by means of bisulphide of carbon, 100 parts. Exhaust with a 2-per-mil. solution of tartaric acid. Heat the resulting liquid to the boiling-point; allow to cool, and neutralise with freshly-precipitated chalk. Filter again and shake with equal parts of 95° alcohol; filter again, heat to evaporate the alcohol, digest with animal charcoal, filter, and add enough water to make the product weigh 100 parts. In this dissolve 6·15 part salicylic acid.

196/26. *Sinapis*.—Your sample of *Dry Soap* is a mixture of powdered yellow soap (2) and crude carbonate of soda (1).

202/69. *Hickey*.—The *Leather-dressing Liquid* is the one we reported in the *C. & D.*, August 31, 1895, page 365.

217/47. *J. N. & Co.*—The *Shampoo-liquid* is made from a formula such as the one in *C. & D.*, August 7, 1897 page 238.

204/33. *Gaultheriæ*; 209/53. *Aphis*.—Your samples of *Fumigating-liquid* for Greenhouses are solutions of crude nicotine in a spirituous medium. The recipe on page 336 of "Pharmaceutical Formulas" yields a like result.

220/74. *Capsici*.—We cannot select a school for you. Get our last Educational number and make your own choice.

185/15. *Dens*.—The small quantity of vermilion in the pomade is for colouring-purposes.

220/64. *C. T. S.*—You do not read your *Pharmacopœia* very carefully, or you would have noticed that tincture of

opium is adjusted to a definite alkaloidal strength, and when finished is practically the same strength as B.P. 1885.

217/66. *J. A. C.*—Probably the best milk-preservative is formalin, a teaspoonful of which is required for 10 gals. of milk. Boric acid is also used. Some formulas and a label are given in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 294.

205/43. *Magnet (Brooklyn)*.—(1) *Essence of Maple*:—

Ol. juniper.	...	...	...	...	3j.
Sacch. ust.	...	...	...	...	3ij.
Spt. vini rect.	...	...	...	...	3iij.

M.

(2) We have no formula for artificial essence of raisin.

192/14. *J. C. G.*—*Making Transparent Photographs*. The photographs are soaked with the following solution:—

White vaseline	...	...	...	...	1 oz.
Benzine	...	...	...	...	10 oz.

Mix.

193/56. *W. F. S.*—*Lemonade-crystals* are made by mixing with 10 oz. of coarsely-powdered citric acid ol. limonis 3j., tr. curcumi 3ij. You will find fuller particulars in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 209.

176/23. *E. H. G. (New York)*.—The "blueing" of rifles such as made by Armstrong's is done by means of heat. The heating takes place in a muffle or in charcoal, and requires, we understand, a good deal of practical knowledge to judge when it is just right.

202/30. *A. S.*—(1) Acetate of amyl is the best solvent for celluloid. (2) We do not know the preparation.

197/62. *B. S.*—You will not have much success in trying to restore the colour of faded black celluloid, as the colour is imparted during the manufacture. The polishing is effected by means of emery, and various polishing-wheels.

203/44. *Ferrum*.—*Books on Analysis of Iron Ores, &c.*—Blair's "Chemical Analysis of Iron," 16s. (Lippincott), Turner's "Metallurgy of Iron and Steel" (Griffin), Bayley's "Assay and Analysis of Iron," 3s. 6d. (Spon).

210/63. *Smilax*.—The sample of Vienna Chalk, used by cycle-enamellers as a polishing-powder, is a very smooth sample of prepared chalk.

203/42. *Devon*.—You will not be able to make the concentrated rennet-powder economically in small quantity. Firms like Armour & Co. who make it manipulate immense quantities of rennets.

Information Wanted.

The Editor will be obliged for replies to the following from any who can furnish the information.

219/43. Makers of "Globe" starch.

222/29. Makers of small male pewter syringes.

225/44. Maker of "Warren's salve."

224/34. Manufacturers of Morris's egg-yellow and Brush's sea-sick remedy.

Coming Events.

We insert notices of association and society meetings in this section free if they are sent to us, on postcards, by the Wednesday of the week before the meetings are to be held.

Monday, July 4.

Royal Institution of Great Britain, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, W. General monthly meeting at 5 P.M.

Thursday, July 7.

The Assistants' Union. A meeting will be held at the Horse-shoe Hotel, Tottenham Court Road, W., at 8 P.M., to elect a council and draft rules.

Trade Report.

Notice to Retail Buyers.

It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large quantities in bulk, and, for crude drugs, without charges. For fuller particulars see the article "Lowest Trade Terms" in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, March 19, 1898, p. 473. C.i.f. quotations are for London unless when otherwise stated.

Buyers of essential oils are particularly requested to note that low quotations, especially for Sicilian essences, are rarely, if ever, accompanied by guarantee of genuineness.

DULNESS still characterises the markets, and the depression in prices, especially of American produce, is so unusual as to be remarkable. The failure of the wheat-corn, and consequent compulsion to realise other goods, accounts in a measure for this state of things; the continuance and uncertainty of the war is another reason, while the low exchanges are favouring buyers on British markets. There is also absence of demand to be noted, but some improvement may come on after stocktaking.

A rise in quinine (second-hands) is the most notable thing in this week's report. The principal alterations in values are as under:—

Higher	Firmer	Lower
Henbane (English)	Ammonia sulphate	Acetate of Lime
Insect-flowers	Chamomiles	Arsenic
Oil, castor (E.I.)	Cloves	Bromides
Opium	Cod-liver oil	Calumba
Quinine (2nd)	Cream of tartar	Copaiba
	Ipecac. (Cartagena)	Ginger
	Oil of lemongrass	Phenazone
	Oil of peppermint	
	Sulphur	

To-day's cablegrams are printed on page 3.

Messrs. Volkart Brothers, of Galle, have sued a Moorish trader of that town for the recovery of 10,000r. as damages sustained by the plaintiffs in consequence of a breach of contract on the part of the defendant in connection with the supply and delivery of a quantity of citronella oil, among other essential oils. The District Judge of Galle gave judgment in favour of the plaintiffs, but in appeal the judgment was reversed. The plaintiffs are going to carry the case to the Privy Council, and it accordingly came on in review at the Collective Court in Appeal in Colombo, on June 6, preparatory to being forwarded to her Majesty in Council. After hearing counsel on both sides, their Lordships took time to consider their judgment.

A few weeks ago a London analyst mentioned to us that he had indications of the adulteration of phenacetin with acetanilide, but the difficulty of obtaining authentic samples from first hand in anything but large quantities has prevented him tracing the source of such sophistication. We now observe from the note of Dr. Rudolf Hefelmann, of Dresden, that there has appeared in the German market, coming from Switzerland, crystallised vanillin which contains 26.7 per cent. of acetanilide. It is astonishing how greatly acetanilide is used for adulteration of synthetic principles, and it would be well if every dealer would make himself familiar with the isonitrile reaction, which is a certain test of the presence of acetanilide. It consists in shaking a grain or two of the suspected substance with a dram of distilled water and a couple of drops of chloroform; then adding five or ten drops of solution of potash and soda and boiling the mixture, when, if acetanilide is present, a most disgusting odour is developed.

We referred some weeks ago in an editorial to the validity of MacLagan's test for cocaine, and urged the importance of maintaining the value of the test because attempts have been made in Germany, and are still persisted in, to discredit it. We impute no motives to those who abuse the test, but we are pleased to note that Messrs. Paul and Cowley, the well-known analysts, share the same view as we have expressed regarding the test, and, in a paper printed in Dr. Paul's journal, state the opinion that "a sample of cocaine hydrochloride that does not answer MacLagan's test is not of sufficient purity for medicinal purposes." They examined four commercial samples, of which two answered the test promptly, one slowly, and the fourth not at all. These observations emphasise the necessity of buyers requiring some guarantee of purity with cocaine, as, indeed, with anything else which is subject to great variation of price owing to competition. A cocaine which does not answer MacLagan's test is dear at a shilling or two less than the English and best German makers' prices.

The Rose-crop, 1898.

(From a Kezanlik Correspondent.)

The rose-harvest is nearly over, with the exception of a few villages high up in the mountains, where the distillation may last for five or six days longer. The harvest lasted altogether about three weeks, and, as the weather was most favourable for the distillation, the new otto is of the finest and richest quality. This year's yield may justly be considered as the best in regard to quality. As one-third of last year's entire crop remained unsold, few growers, if any, have dared to tamper with their new otto.

The total yield of this year's crop amounts to a little over 60,000 Turkish ounces, or just about 25 per cent. under the average crop. This shortage was brought about by last summer's torrential rainfalls, which damaged most of the old rose-plantations, and also by the uneven and almost snowless winter. In addition, the short, sharp cold-snap during the budding and leafing season, in stopping temporarily the free and steady flow of the sap, retarded the blooming of the usual rich clusters of rose-buds. Those that did appear, however, developed and matured well, and the favourable weather during the harvesting-season helped greatly to make this year's otto of rare excellence.

The surplus stock of old otto left over from last year, whether in the hands of small or large growers and jobbers, is estimated at not less than 30,000 Turkish ounces—far in excess of any surplus ever left over before. Of course, the surplus represents mostly ottos of ordinary grades, and naturally cannot compare with the newly-distilled otto in freshness, richness, and excellence.

Regarding this year's prices, few expect them to be any higher than last year's. On the contrary, fears are entertained that the new prices may be considerably lower, on account of the large surplus of old otto, which even now is offered at tempting prices, and also on account of the recent standstill in the essential-oil trade. As most of the exporters in Bulgaria and the dealers in the different consuming-markets have heavy stocks on hand, it is quite possible that the new otto may be fixed rather late in the season.

Heavy Chemicals.

A quiet, but on the whole fairly firm, tone continues to be the prevailing feature of the heavy chemical market. New business is scarce, and what there is, is not of any very great moment. Orders for deliveries against contracts are rather more numerous. Considering the general condition of affairs values are well maintained and steady, and there are only a few changes of somewhat minor importance to be reported this week. The most noticeable change has been in the position of *Sulphate of ammonia*, which is quoted as follows:—Beckton terms, prompt, 9l. 5s.; October-December, 9l. 5s.; Hull, 9l. 6s. 3d.; London, 9l. 6s. 3d.; and Leith, 9l. 6s. 3d. to 9l. 7s. 6d.; 391 tons were exported from the latter port last week. Forward business is poor. *Bleaching-powder* and *caustic soda* are easy. *Soda crystals* and *Glauber's salts* are somewhat scarce, owing to the difficulty of crystallisation. The further decrease in value of *Brown acetate of lime* which we predicted last week has taken place, and present figures

for both American and Welsh are now only from 5*l.* 5*s.* to 5*l.* 10*s.*, c.i.f. *Nitrate of soda* is quieter and a shade easier, so are *Chlorates*. *Benzols* are dull, and 50-per-cent. has declined to 10*d.* *Sulphate of copper* is still low, but has taken a rather firmer tone owing to better demand. *Green copperas* only in moderate inquiry. *Saltcake* maintains its strong position, as does also *Recovered sulphur*, and both products are in good demand. *Hyposulphite of soda* steady. *Silicates of soda* in better request. *Linseed and cotton-seed cakes* tend easier.

Liverpool Drug=market.

Our Liverpool correspondent, writing on June 29, reports that the demand for *Chilian Honey* has improved, and sales are reported of 225 barrels, chiefly fair to good *Pile X*, at 27*s.* to 28*s.* per cwt., *Pile I.* at 24*s.*, *Pile II.* 22*s.*, and *Pile III.* 21*s.* per cwt. In *Californian* there is a better demand, at 30*s.* to 40*s.* per cwt., according to quality. *Castor oil* exhibits peculiar features. *Calcutta oil*, owing to strong reports from the East, has advanced considerably. Good seconds are now 3½*d.*, with prospect of further rise. French and Madras show a downward tendency. Holders are willing to take, on the spot, 3½*d.* to 3¾*d.* per lb. for French first, and 3½*d.* for second pressure. *Beeswax* has been in better demand, and 15 sacks of *Chilian* are reported sold at 7*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* to 7*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. For good dry *Kola-nuts* 1½*d.* per lb. was bid in auction, but business was not reported. In *Gums* the arabic sorts are moving off slowly; but the supply remains small, and holders ask full prices. A little business has been done in fair *Niger* at 45*s.* per cwt. Dark to bright-red *Niger Capsicums* are held for 23*s.* per cwt., and *Sierra Leone* bright reds would fetch 40*s.* to 42*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. Good Russian *Anisee* is available at 18*s.* per cwt. *Maranham Copaiba*, just landed, was offered at auction, and 1*s.* 9*d.* per lb. was bid for 6 barrels, but the lot was withdrawn. Business has since resulted at an unknown price. *African Ginger* is steady, at 17*s.* 6*d.* to 19*s.* per cwt.; and 51 bags of good *Cochin* have sold at 23*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

Hamburg Drug=market.

Our Hamburg correspondent writes on June 28 that business continues very quiet, and prices are almost unchanged since last week. *Cape aloes* is firm at 55*m.*, and *Curaçao* at 39*m.* to 40*m.* per 100 kilos. *Star-anise* is also firm at 235*m.* to 240*m.* per 100 kilos. *Balsam Peru*, genuine, is held for 19½*m.* to 20*m.* per kilo. There is little business in *Refined camphor*, at 235*m.* per 100 kilos, nominal. *Condurango-bark* is easier, at 45*m.* per 100 kilos. *Cascara sagrada* scarce and firmly held, at 33*m.* per 100 kilos. *Maltese cumin-seed* is offered at 37½*m.* per 100 kilos. on the spot. New crop, for shipment, is quoted at 40*m.* to 42*m.* per 100 kilos. *Galangal* is steady, and holders ask 45*m.* per 100 kilos. *Gentian-root* rather easier, at 40*m.* per 100 kilos. *Menthol* is very quiet, and in small demand at 14½*m.* per kilo. *Quinine* is dull of sale, and neglected, at 27*m.* per kilo. *Waxes* of all kinds are dull of sale. *Worm-seed* is scarce, at 43*m.* per 100 kilos. *Rio ipecacuanha* has firmed this week, and 21*m.* to 22*m.* per kilo. is now wanted. *Cod-liver oil* is steady, but there is little business, and 1898 non-congealing oil is still quoted 84*m.* per barrel. *Castor oil* is slow of sale; first pressing, in barrels, for prompt shipment, is 56*m.*, July-October delivery 54*m.* per 100 kilos. In essential oils there is nothing new to report.

Cablegrams.

BERGEN, June 30, 11 10 A.M.:—During the past few days the catch of cod at Finmarken has been unremunerative, and the season has now closed. The total yield at Finmarken, added to the early spring and Lofoten fishings, makes a grand total of 38,451,000 cod, against 58,397,000 last year; but this year's livers have been so much fatter that the yield of non-congealing medicinal oil will equal 22,855 barrels, against 28,728 barrels in 1897. The market here is uninteresting and the tone calm at my last quotation, 81*s.* per barrel, f.o.b. Bergen, for medicinal oil.

HAMBURG, June 30, 11 27 A.M.:—The opium market has firmed during the past few days and holders ask higher

prices. *Castor oil* is dull of sale, and *camphor* and *quinine* have been selling at unaltered rates.

NEW YORK, June 30, 3 4 P.M.:—This market is perfectly lifeless. The only articles which show signs of animation are opium and quinine, which have become firmer in response to cabled advices from Europe. *Tolu balsam* shows a further decline, 33*c.* per lb. being the price to-day; and *Norwegian cod-liver oil* is advancing, and is a dollar per barrel dearer to-day than last week.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: June 30.

ACETANILIDE.—Quiet, and with an easier tendency. The general quotation appears to be 1*s.* 1*d.* per lb. in quantity, but one manufacturer is willing to accept 1*s.* 0½*d.* in order to induce business.

ACID, CARBOLIC.—Crystals on the spot are 6½*d.* per lb. for 39° to 40° C., and 6¾*d.* for 34° to 35° C.; 60-per-cent. crude, 2*s.*, and 75 per cent., 2*s.* 6*d.* *Cresylic*, 95 per cent., 1*s.* to 1*s.* 1*d.* per gallon.

ACID, CITRIC.—Dearer. English crystals on the spot have been advanced 1*d.* per lb., and are now 1*s.* 2*d.*, but it is difficult to get a firm offer at that. Concentrated lemon-juice, which was 15*l.* 5*s.*, has also advanced to 17*l.* c. and f. terms.

ACID, PHOSPHORIC.—The nominal quotation for this "syndicated" article is 10½*d.* per lb., but business has been done recently at 10¾*d.*

ACID, TARTARIC.—Very firm, at 1*s.* 1*d.* per lb. for English crystals; foreign crystals, 1*s.* 0¾*d.* c.i.f.

ALoes.—Inquiries have been made this week, but no business has transpired as yet. Fine bright hard *Cape* is still available at 26*s.* per cwt. Re-sales of auction lots of *capey Curaçao* have been made at 18*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

ARSENIC.—Best white English powder is easier, at 19*l.* per ton on the spot.

BALSAM PERU is offered on the spot at 9*s.* 3*d.* to 9*s.* 6*d.* per lb.

BENZOIN.—Business has been done privately at 7*l.* per cwt. for fair seconds *Sumatra*, for which 7*l.* 5*s.* was asked at auction.

BROMIDES.—English manufacturers have lowered their prices by ½*d.* per lb., and the quotations are now as follows for 1 cwt. lots: *Potassium bromide*, 1*s.* 9*d.* per lb.; *Sodium bromide*, 1*s.* 11½*d.*; *Ammonium bromide*, 2*s.* The alteration has been made in order to equalise the quotations of each country. The German exchange, hitherto 20 25*m.* per 1*l.* is now 20 50*m.*, and this meant that the bromides were cheaper in Germany than here.

BUCHU.—A small parcel is now on the way, and may probably be offered at the next drug-auctions.

CALUMBA.—Business has been done during the week in common sorts at 18*s.* per cwt. We notice the arrival in Hamburg of 1,184 sacks, but we are informed that the bulk of this has already been bought for immediate consumption, and it is understood that the new arrival is partly old crop and generally of indifferent quality. The stock is none too large.

CAMPHOR, REFINED, is in better demand, but there is no change in the price of it nor in that of the crude. The exports of crude camphor from Hong-Kong and Canton to the Continent from January 1 to May 28, 1898, were 8,490 boxes, against 9,823 for 1897, 10,773 for 1896, and 8,337 for 1895.

CARDAMOMS.—Last week's values are maintained. The exports from Ceylon from January 1 to June 7, 1898, were 222,240 lbs., of which 146,049 came to the U.K. A cardamom estate consisting of 110 acres, situated in the Medamahawera district of Ceylon, has been sold at a high figure, which, however, was not allowed to transpire.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—Small sales of old bark have been made this week at 25*s.* on the spot with further sellers at this figure. New bark remains unchanged at 20*s.* to 21*s.* according to quantity. Private advices from New York intimate a rising market.

CHAMOMILES.—Continental reports are to the effect that the planting this year has diminished, and that the flowers will go to a higher price. Meanwhile, prices of Belgian of 1897 crop are quoted at 45s. down to 30s. per cwt., on the spot. In Germany it is reported that in consequence of the small crop and the low stocks, the price of new flowers has advanced.

CREAM OF TARTAR has a firmer tendency. Ordinary 90-per-cent. to 92 per-cent. white French crystals are quoted at 70s. to 71s. London terms; 95-per-cent., 73s.; and B.P. 99-per-cent., 80s. to 81s. on the spot. Ordinary powder is quoted at 72s. 6d. to 74s. per cwt.

GALLS.—A quiet but firm market. Small sales of blue *Bassorah* have been made at 54s. to 55s. per cwt., according to quality. Blue *Smyrna* galls are quoted at 47s. 6d. to 50s. per cwt. with a moderate supply and limited demand.

GUM ARABIC.—The market in *Soudan* sorts is extremely quiet and rather over-supplied. Some parcels of old import have lately been put on the market, and lower prices would be accepted. *Amrad* is still offering at 35s. without business, while of *Ghezirah* gum the stock is said to be exhausted. *Ghatti*, ordinary to middling gum, has been sold at 17s. to 19s. 6d. "Insoluble" *Persian* gum is held at 25s. for fine pale picked. There has been a fair demand for fine sorts, but the high prices asked—viz., 18s. to 21s.—have curtailed business.

GUM-SALES.—Varnish gums were sold in auction to-day. Gum anini brought unchanged rates, but the prices were full up. Kauri gum also sold well, and the best parcels realised higher rates. Manila copal is also unchanged.

GUM TRAGACANTH remains steady; the business lately done has been in lower grades at previous prices. First pale *Persian* druggists' kinds are quoted at 13l. per cwt.

HENBANE.—The English crop has come out worse than was expected, and the price of the extract has advanced by 1s. per lb. Biennial tops of the new crop are only in limited supply, and 10s. per lb is the cultivator's price; first biennial leaf can be had at from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per lb.

INSECT-FLOWERS.—Wild and closed flowers of the new crop are scarce, and are dearer in consequence. Open flowers are to be had at unaltered prices.

IPECACUANHA.—*Cartagena* has been in good demand, and has been selling freely at 4s. 6d. per lb.; one holder is not disposed to sell more under 5s. There has been nothing doing in *Rio* root, which is unchanged, and 87 packages of this kind have been landed this week, and, we understand, have been consigned to one firm.

LIQUORICE.—For decorticated *Persian* 20s. per cwt. is asked nominally, while fair ordinary rough is offered at 5s. to 8s.

MANNA.—New crop is quoted at from 1s. 9d. to 1s. 11d. for white flake; small broken flake, 8½d. to 10d.; and sorts, 6½d. to 8d. per lb., f.o.b. Messina.

NAPHTHA quiet. The following are the quotations to-day: 90 per cent., 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 3d.; 95 per cent., 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. per gallon. Crude 30 per cent., 4d. to 5d.

OIL, CASTOR.—Unchanged generally. Best medicinal Italian is 4½d. per lb. on the spot. First-pressing Belgian, 30s. per cwt. on the spot; July-August shipment, 28s.; second-pressing, same position, 25s., ex wharf. Oil of British manufacture is 4d. per lb. in tins and cases for best medicinal oil; first pressing, 29s. in barrels, and 3½d. in tins and cases; second pressing, 28s. and 3½d. respectively, f.o.r. or f.o.b. Hull.

OIL, CITRONELLA.—Business has been done this week at 12½d. per lb., c.i.f. London, for forward shipment. From January 1 to June 17, 1898, 593,034 lbs. were imported from Ceylon.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—A fair amount of business has been done this week at 85s. per barrel, c.i.f., for new oil. There is still a good stock of 1897 oil available in London at 75s. per barrel, c.i.f. A firmer tendency is apparent on account of the fact that the stock in Hamburg has been reduced.

Our Bergen correspondent, writing on June 25, reports a quiet and unaltered market at 81s. per barrel, f.o.b. terms. The total catch at Finmarken up to June 25 was 7,200,000 with a yield of

3,399 barrels, against 11,900,000 with 3,408 barrels in 1897, and 15,800,000 with 8,163 barrels in 1896. The total exports from Bergen up to date have been 4,173 barrels, against 3,854 barrels at the same time of last year. Next week definite news is expected of the final result of the Finmarken fishing.

OIL, EUCALYPTUS.—Has been in better demand this week; oil containing from 50 per cent. to 55 per cent. eucalyptol is selling at about 2s. 4d. per lb.

OILS, FIXED.—*Linseed* is slightly easier at 16s. 3d. for pipes on the spot, or at 16s. 4½d. landed; barrels, 16s. 9d. *Rape* quiet; ordinary brown on the spot 22s., refined 23s. 6d., and *Ravison* 18s. 3d. Refined *Cotton-seed* oil has been in better request at 15s. 6d. to 16s. per cwt., in casks. Ceylon *Cocunut* oil 24s. to 24s. 6d. in pipes, and *Cochin* 29s. to 29s. 6d. on the spot. Fine *Lagos Palm* oil is lower on the week at 23s. per cwt.

OIL, LAVENDER.—A genuine French oil can be had on the spot at 6s. 6d. per lb.

OIL, LEMONGRASS.—Little business doing; but if anything the oil is firmer, at 4½d. per oz. on the spot, and 3½d. to 3¾d., c.i.f., for new oil.

OIL, OLIVE.—Reports from Messina state that oil for home-consumption has been supplied by imports from Spain, and prices have given way. Crop-reports as to the flowering have been very satisfactory. Prices of the Spanish oil are also lower, but buyers, being well supplied, have not responded with orders. *Malaga* is 23l. 10s., and *Serville* 26l., per tun c. & f. The prices of *Lerant* are well maintained at 31l. 10s., c.i.f., for Mitylene. The crop outlook is favourable. The shipments from Messina in May were 415 tuns, against 805 tuns in same month 1897.

OIL, PEPPERMINT.—We hear slightly conflicting reports regarding the English crops. In some districts the plant has done well, and the acreage planted is quite up to the average, but in another district the plant is in a poor condition. It is yet too soon, therefore, to form an opinion as to what the final result will be. There has been a brisker demand this week for American oils, especially the so-called Wayne County, and 3s. 7½d. to 3s. 8d. per lb has been paid. Other quotations are: J.B.H. "first premium," 3s. 10½d. in tins; H.G.H. 5s. 6d. to 5s. 7½d. Japanese dementholised and 40-per-cent. oils have an easier tendency.

OIL, RED THYME.—Guaranteed genuine oil of the new crop is offered at 4s. per lb. on the spot.

OIL, STAR ANISE.—Very quiet, with sellers at 6: 9d. c.i.f., for July-August shipment.

OPIMUM.—Dearer. A fair amount of business was done at the close of last week in *Persian* at 11s. 9d. per lb. for finest, and more money is now asked. Business has also been done in *Sft shipping* at higher prices: 12s. to 12s. 3d. is now quoted for good to fine. Druggists' grades are unchanged but firmer.

Our Smyrna correspondent, writing on June 17, reports as follows:—"Advices received from the interior this week announce that destructive storms and hot winds have prevailed during the past few days, in consequence of which the gathering of the new crop is being carried out under bad conditions. The samples of opium received this week show better quality, but the morphine content is not at all satisfactory, as is usually the case with the first arrivals. The sales for the week amount to 123 cases, comprising *Adette* and *Karahissar*, at the equivalent of from 9s. 5d. to 9s. 11d. per lb. c.i.f. terms European ports. The arrivals of old opium in Smyrna amount to 3,679 cases, against 2,513 in 1897, and new opium 11 cases, against 20 cases last year."

Our Constantinople correspondent writes on June 24 that the past week has been one of inaction, nothing in druggists' grades having changed hands owing to the high pretensions of holders. Market to-day is quiet, but steady, at 10s. 2d. to 10s. 3d. per lb. nominally for druggists'. Eight cases Zilles, containing 20-per-cent. firsts, were sold early in the week at 10s. 3d., f.o.b. News from the interior regarding this year's output is not very satisfactory, and there is but little disposition to sell in consequence.

PHENAZONE.—Cheaper. The manufacturers' price is 15s. to 15s. 6d. per lb., and there are second-hand sellers at 14s. 6d. The market is slightly demoralised at the moment, as holders wish to realise.

POPPIES.—Continental of new crop are offered at 13s. 6d. per 1,000 when available.

POTASH CYANIDE.—German is firmly held at 1s. 1d. per lb. on the spot or at 1s. 0½d. for forward shipment.

QUININE.—Dearer in second hand, and manufacturers are firm, without inclination to sell other than small lots for consumption. As a matter of fact, makers' stocks are low, and they appear to be supplying as they make. At least one German manufacturer is declining to book orders for more than 1,000-oz. lots at 10d., and this figure has been refused for a 5,000-oz. lot. In consequence of the scarcity second-hand holders have this week raised their prices, and on Wednesday there were both sellers and buyers at 10d. per oz.; but scarcely anything is now to be had at that figure, so bare is the market of second-hand supplies. One lot, of 1888 manufacture, is reported to have been sold at 10d. The general opinion is that the recent reduction in price by manufacturers was not justified by the condition of the hark-market, and that it is fear of Java competition which keeps the price low. In that connection we may note that at Amsterdam, on Tuesday, July 12, there will be offered 26 cases, each containing twelve 1-kilo. tins of the Bandoeng sulphate of quinine. The total amounts to nearly 11,000 oz.

SAFFRON.—Dearer in Valencia, but owing to the low rates of exchange prices are unaltered in London. For Alicante 22s. 6d. to 23s. per lb. is now wanted.

SCAMMONIUM.—Firsts are in small supply, and firmly held at 25s. to 27s. per lb. "Skillep" is also scarce, but not wanted. Supplies of root are increasing, but there is no business to report.

SEEDS.—Further sales of slightly weevilled Morocco *Coriander* without reserve at 5s. 9d. per cwt. A small lot of fine Spanish *Aniseed* sold at 23s. per cwt. No change in *Cumin*; the new crop of Malta is said to be small but of good quality. Morocco *Fenugreek* is offering at 10s. per cwt. c.i.f. terms; the crop is reported to be not larger than last year. *Canary-seed* very dull of sale, and prices are nominal. *Caraways* quiet.

SENNA.—Small sales of *Alexandrian* siftings have recently been made at 23½d. per lb. Picked leaves are in small supply, and wanted; from 5d. to 6d. is asked, according to quality. Sorts, which are plentiful, are held for 3d.

SHELLAC.—The market last week closed quietly, but steady, at 62s., c.i.f. for TN orange, April-June shipment, with buyers at 61s. 6d. On Monday, however, an improved demand set in, and a fair business was done at 62s. to 64s. for middling to fair on the spot. Since then further sales have been made at these prices. For arrival there are buyers at 62s., c.i.f. April-June steamer shipment.

SPICES.—*Pepper* and *Cloves* rather firmer, with more business doing; other articles very quiet, and sales small. At the auctions on Wednesday washed rough Cochin *Ginger* sold at 21s. per cwt.; boldish Calicut brown rough at 23s. per cwt., being 1s. per cwt. cheaper; medium and small native cut at 44s. per cwt. Japan was easier; 200 hags sold without reserve at 15s. 6d. to 16s. per cwt. for dull unlimed rough. No Jamaica offered. Zanzibar cloves firmer; 450 bales fair at auction were withdrawn, although 3½d. per lb. was bid. For delivery more doing, and the price for October-December has risen from 3½d. to 3¾d. per lb. *Nutmegs*, *Mace*, and *Pimento* quiet, without quotable change in value. A small lot of Japan *Chillies* sold without reserve at 34s. 6d. per cwt. for good red little mixed yellow. Good small heavy to hold Malabar black *Pepper* sold at 4½d. to 4¾d. per lb.; no Singapore in sale, but the value is 4¾d. per lb. on the spot, and 4¾d. for August-October shipment; Singapore white sold at 7¼d. to 7½d. per lb. for dull mixed, and at 8½d. for good hold washed; there are buyers to arrive at 8½d. for distant shipment; Penang white bought in; value of spot, 6½d.; September-November steamer sold at 7½d. per lb.; Siam bought in at 7¾d. per lb., 7¾d. being bid. Rio *Tapioca* bought in at 6d. to 6½d. per lb. for fine. *Cassia lignea* steady, unchanged.

STORAX.—Liquid is quoted at 72s. 6d. per cwt., "c.i.f.," in casks of 3 cwt., and in tins and cases at 85s.

SULPHUR.—Firmer. Foreign flowers are quoted this week at 6l. 15s. per cwt. and *Roll* at 6l. 10s. on the spot. English flowers range from 10l. 10s. to 12l. according to make.

TEA.—The Indian market during the last month has been growing smaller and beautifully less. A ragged assortment of poor liquoring Calcutta teas does not arouse much enthusiasm, and auctions have been smaller each week. Finest and good medium teas have been badly wanted, and will be keenly competed for when new teas come in good, but so far arrivals have only consisted of N.S. Darjeelings (which up to the present are poor, but will soon come better), useful Dooars teas, and wretched Sylhet sorts, but no fine tea at all. Ceylons are coming in rather more freely, and have slightly improved in quality. Common leaf tea is steady at 5½d. to 5¾d., only rubbish going at or under 5d., but better grades, leaf and broken, from 6½d. to 8d. are reasonable and plentiful. Fine teas are scarce. New Monings will be here in a fortnight, and are reported good teas.

WAX (BEES').—Little business doing this week and the easier tendency is maintained, as the stocks both in London and the Continent appear to be ample and are week by week being augmented by fresh supplies. A pure refined French wax is offered at 7l. 10s. per cwt.

Arrivals.

The following is a list of the principal drugs which have arrived in the port of London and other large ports in England during the past fortnight. The figures indicate the number of original packages (bales, casks, &c.):—

Aniseed	67	Liquorice-root	2650
Asafetida	23	Manna	3
Balsam copaiba (Mar.)	14	Oil, anise	20
Benzoin	94	Oil, camphor	560
Buchu	18	Oil, castor	538
Camphor (Japan)	160	Oil, citronella	55
Cardamoms	190	Oil, cod-liver	49
Cassia-lignea	15	Oil, eucalyptus	44
Cinchona	248	Oil, lime	12
Coca-leaves	25	Oil, nutmeg	16
Cocaine (crude)	3	Oil, rose	3
Colocynth	20	Opium	163
Ergot of rye	12	Patchouli	14
Galls (Persian)	2389	Quicksilver	6700
Gentian	77	Quinine	119
Honey	230	Rhubarb	82
Insect-powder	151	Sarsaparilla	13
Iodine	97	Soy	342
Ipecacuanha (Rio)	87	Tamarinds	281
Kola	11	Wax, bees'	601
Lime-juice	156	Wax, Japan	103

Commercial Notes.

BEIRUT OLIVES.

Reporting on the trade of Beirut and the coast of Syria, the British Consul states that the olive crop was a complete failure. It is usually calculated that olive-trees produce one good crop every two years, and a medium crop the year after. As prices advanced 30 per cent., few shipments were made to Europe, and the oil was sold for local consumption. Albumen was formerly exported from Beirut, but the trade is now almost extinct.

CHEMICALS FOR URUGUAY.

In 1897 Great Britain supplied 4,000l. worth of copper sulphate to Uruguay out of a total of 7,000l., but has lost ground in this article compared with former years. The exports from Germany have advanced considerably—from 400l. in 1896 to 1,700l. in 1897. The United States has also increased her supply from 300l. to 1,200l. As regards drugs and medicines France supplied 40,500l., Germany 8,000l., Great Britain 7,500l., Italy 6,000l., and the United States 5,000l. out of a total of 70,000l.

BOOTS, cash chemists, Market Place, St. Albans, is the latest address.

MR J. H. BOLTON, chemist, Southgate, has been re-elected on the Edmonton School Board.

The Magic Book.

ORDERS for "Pharmaceutical Formulas" are now coming in from all parts of the world and from men of many dialects. The other day an order came from Jerusalem, whereupon our poet burst into the following song:—

The Arab Sheik in his lonesome tent
On the shores of Galilee,
Lay sick with the curse of discontent
And dying of ennui;
And his lordly head with woe was bent
For his dread of the end to be.

The Medicine Man of this tribe far-feared
Had a face of ashen grey,
For the Sheik had sworn by the Prophet's beard
That his head would be swept away
If by night he healed not his sad soul seared
By the fiends of the darksome day.

The Wise Man searched the Koran through
And oft to Allah prayed;
While the night-birds shrieked and the vultures flew
In the gloom where the camels strayed,
And his eyeballs gleamed with a feverish hue
As the last of his hopes seemed dead.

He knelt and stared o'er the desert waste,
And watched the sunset's glow,
Till a Voice was heard, and he rose in haste
As a stranger bowed him low.
Who held a Book with a casque encased
As he spoke in accents low:

"I am of the land where the sun ne'er sets,
And I go with this priceless gem
To one who dwells near the golden gates
Of the old Jerusalem,
And perchance it haps that the Evil Fates
Have scorched thy garment's hem.

"If sorrow thine, or pain, or harm,
To mind or soul the cause;
If life seems drear, I hold the charm,
For straight from Death's dark jaws
Are many snatched by the magic 'PHARM-
ACEUTICAL FORMULAS!'"

L'Envoi.

When hope is dead and all looks blue,
And the sun of life has set,
We can save our souls and life renew
For seven and sixpence net.

IT PAYS TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE "C. & D."

"Since my last remittance I have made 10s. out of one C. & D. formula alone."

So wrote a Bolton correspondent on June 23; and by the same post we received instructions to supply the whole of the members of the Cape Pharmaceutical Society with THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST regularly. It also pays to advertise in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, for we have as subscribers, numerically and commercially, the best list of buyers in the drug-trade of the British Empire.

SPANISH FLIES BARRED.—A patriotic doctor writes despairingly to an American contemporary in the following strain:—"Please recommend some good counter-irritant, as my patients refuse positively to allow me to apply Spanish flies, our old stand-by. I presume when peace is declared with Spain we can return to them."

MR. EPHRAIM BURTON, late of 20 High Holborn, trading as the Sanitants Manufacturing Company, was examined in bankruptcy in London on Thursday. The liabilities are 2,609*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, and assets only 5*l.* He stated that it was in respect of the costs of the recent action against him by the Sanitas Company (Limited) that the petitioning creditors obtained the receiving-order, and to the action taken by them he mainly attributed his insolvency.

'Detached Crystals.'

ON March 7 last Messrs. Hollinghurst & Co., 127 Fenchurch Street, E.C., rang up on the telephone Messrs. Pronk, Davis & Co., 22 Harp Lane, E.C., asking a quotation for 2 cwt. of "carbolic acid detached crystal of 39-40°." The reply was that that could not be supplied, but they could have ordinary crystallised 35° at 8½*d.* per lb. Messrs. Hollinghurst thereupon ordered the quantity in writing, adding "39-40° detached." Their order was returned by messenger with "detached" erased, and an explanation that "detached 39-40°" would cost 10½*d.* per lb. The 8½*d.* article was sent to Messrs. Pronk, Davis & Co., who, nine days later, complained that it was not the thing; and a consummation of the matter was reached at the City of London Court on Wednesday, when Messrs. Hollinghurst claimed 8*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* for the acid supplied, and Messrs. Pronk, Davis & Co. counterclaimed for breach of contract. Mr. Assistant-Registrar Tattershall sat out all the evidence about the messages over telephone, by post, and otherwise; Mr. Hollinghurst and his clerk supporting the claim of the plaintiffs, while Mr. Terry, manager to the defendants, supported their claim, reluctantly stating that the acid was for Messrs. J. & J. Field, ink-manufacturers. Ultimately the Assistant-Registrar said the defendants' case had not been proved, and decided for the plaintiffs.



M. PEYTRAL.

OUR Paris correspondent telegraphs, as we go to press, stating that M. Peytral has again been appointed Minister of Finance—a position which he held in 1888. M. Peytral was formerly a wholesale druggist at Marseilles.

C. H. GLOVER & Co. (LIMITED).—This old firm, well known in the mineral-water and other trades as manufacturers of cases, have converted their business into a limited company with 70,000*l.* capital, half of which is in ordinary shares, which are taken by the vendors in part payment for the business; while the other 35,000*l.*, in 5½ per cent. preference shares, is now offered for public subscription together with 30,000*l.* 4 per cent. debentures. The firm own large timber-yards, saw-mills, wharves, and other property and stock, the whole of which is valued at 75,000*l.*, which is the price to be paid for the concern (35,000*l.* in ordinary shares). The subscription list for preference shares and debentures will close on the 7th inst.



IRISH SUPPLEMENT TO THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

SECOND YEAR.

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1898.

No. 19.

Editorial Notes.

IF you have not yet commenced to subscribe to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, this is a good time to begin. A new volume starts on July 2, and 10s. will pay for the weekly numbers until June 30, 1899, THE IRISH SUPPLEMENT monthly, and a copy of THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY for 1899, to be published in December next. It frequently happens that a single item in the *C. & D.* is so profitable to a man that it pays for the whole year's subscription.

The event of the past month which most interests the druggists and pharmacists of the United Kingdom was the introduction into the House of Lords on June 13, by the Duke of Devonshire, of a Bill to regulate the sale of poisonous substances. The Bill consists of three clauses, and deals primarily with the sale of the following substances:—

Butter of antimony.
Carbolic acid.
Chloride of zinc and its solutions.
Cresylic acid.
Hydrochloric acid } unless diluted in manner prescribed by the
Nitric acid } British Pharmacopœia for the time being
Sulphuric acid } in force.
Sugar of lead and other salts of lead.
Preparations of carbolic or cresylic acid or their homologues used as disinfectants and containing more than 10 per cent. of any of them.
Substances sold for the purpose of poisoning insects or vermin.

The sale of these substances is not to be confined to registered chemists, druggists, and pharmaceutical chemists; anyone may sell them so long as he takes care to label them "Poison." The Bill also proposes to give the Privy Council power to make regulations as to the storage of such substances, and to add to the list, while the power given to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain to make regulations regarding the storage of poisons is taken away from it and given to the Privy Council. Confusions are likely to be caused by the application of the Act to Ireland, where carbolic acid is already on the schedule, and also by including "substances sold for the purpose of poisoning insects or vermin." This description will lead oilmen to think they may sell strychnine vermin-killers, and, perhaps,

would actually allow them to do so, while it would certainly make the popular flea-powder a legal poison. The Bill passed the second reading on June 24, and went through the Committee stage on June 27, so that the House of Commons will decide its fate. We are pleased to note that members of the Irish Pharmaceutical Council have indicated their intention of opposing the measure; and, although the Great Britain Society has not yet moved publicly in the matter, we fancy it will oppose the Bill. Its rejection in the House of Commons is almost certain if the trade in Ireland make it a point to write to their members in Parliament, asking them to oppose the Bill when it reaches the House of Commons.

Another parliamentary matter which interests the trade was the presentation to the House of Lords on Tuesday, June 14, by the Earl of Mayo of a petition from the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland asking that in the Companies Bill now before Parliament a clause might be inserted to the effect that no company may be registered to do acts for which a course of education and examination are required to qualify, unless each member of the company is qualified. The full text of the petition was printed in the *C. & D.* of June 18. It has been freely commented upon by the press, who put all sorts of curious questions about the principle involved, which show generally that they know little about the poison-trade, and less about the qualifications necessary to conduct a pharmacy.

The meeting of the Pharmaceutical Council in Dublin on June 1 was chiefly notable for the felicitous references which the President made to his visit to the sister Society in London last month. His remarks formed a point upon which a short discussion was held about the one-sided reciprocity as regards the Preliminary-examination certificates, which was summed up by the President saying:—

I think the English Society are disposed to turn over a new leaf, and we ought to let them do so and not be raking up the past. They are now inclined to work in friendship with us, and we should show the same face. We, of course, are not going to give away anything that we possess, or to ask them to do anything similar. They have certainly shown themselves very friendly, and I believe the bulk of their Council are friendly towards us and our Society. At the same time there may be matters of what might be called legislation between us at which we are not both ready to jump.

From this matter the Council proceeded to the election of a new member in place of Mr. McKnight resigned. The choice fell upon Mr. John Edgar Connor, pharmaceutical chemist, Newry, who was elected unanimously. We give a portrait of Mr. Connor. After this the only items of exceptional interest were the resignation of Mr. A. L. Doran as an examiner in pharmacy, and the announcement that



the examiners are to take in the new B.P. forthwith, but they are not to be too critical in regard to the marking on that matter at first.

* * * *

The British Pharmaceutical Conference meeting at Belfast in August is to be a big thing. A Glasgow chemist was telling us the other day that a contingent of about five-and-twenty will sail from the City of St. Mungo to the City of Belfast on the morning of August 9. The following are the arrangements as laid before the meeting of the Executive Committee held in London on June 8, when Mr. J. C. C. Payne, J.P., of Belfast, one of the Vice-Presidents, attended:—

Tuesday, August 9.—Opening meeting in Queen's College, Belfast, at 10 A.M. An official welcome will be offered by the Lord Mayor of Belfast (the Right Hon. James Henderson, M.A., J.P.) and by the Rev. Thos. Hamilton, D.D. (President of the Queen's College). The session will last until 1 P.M., and will be resumed at 2 until 4 P.M., when carriages will arrive to take members to the Giant's Ring and other places of interest. A reception and *conversazione* will be held in the Queen's College in the evening.

Wednesday, August 10.—The business of the Conference will be continued in the morning and concluded at 4 in the afternoon. By invitation of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress a garden-party will be given at 4 P.M. in the Botanic Gardens Park.

Thursday, August 11.—Excursion to the coast of Antrim, visiting Larne, Garron Tower, Glenariff, and Parkmore.

All that is wanted now is a good list of papers—we beg pardon, Queen's weather, for it is the latter that the local committee, the ladies, and the majority of the scientific visitors want. We must not forget to mention that a ladies' committee has been organised by Mrs. J. C. C. Payne, over which Mrs. S. Clothworthy will preside. Miss Watson is the Hon. Secretary. Arrangements are being made to take the lady visitors to places of interest in the city. There will be a ladies' drawing-room on August 10, when the male members are to be the guests of Lady Nicotine, Mr. John Jamieson, and others.

Dublin Chemists' Federation.

ON Monday evening, June 20, a meeting of pharmaceutical chemists and chemists and druggists was held at the house of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, Dublin, for the purpose of forming a Dublin Chemists' Federation. Amongst those present were Dr. Walsh, Messrs. William Allen, W. F. Wells, jun., G. Brown, T. Turner, H. Hunt, Conyngham, Kelly, &c. The President of the P.S.I. (Mr. R. J. Downes)

took the chair, and referred to the meeting held in Dublin last December, at which Mr. Glyn-Jones, of the P.A.T.A., delivered an address on the working of that Association and at which resolutions were passed approving it and in favour of the establishment of a Dublin Chemists' Federation, and appointing Dr. Walsh convener of a meeting for that purpose. This was that meeting.

Dr. Walsh said he had sent out eighty-four circulars, which he addressed to all the pharmaceutical chemists, registered druggists, and proprietors of wholesale houses whose addresses in the city and suburbs he could find. If any had not received circulars he trusted they would understand that it was through oversight on his part. Mr. William H. Boyd and Mr. Smallman (proprietor of Hunt & Co.) had written sympathising with the movement, but expressing regret that they were unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Walsh read a circular of the P.A.T.A., dated May 4, 1898, asking the proposed Dublin Association to work in conjunction with the P.A.T.A., and suggesting simultaneous monthly meetings of local committees for the purpose of taking action as advised.

On the motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. William Allen, Dr. Walsh was elected President of the Association, and took the chair. Mr. John Smith was then elected Hon. Secretary; and Messrs. Browne, Ray, Turner, and O'Sullivan were appointed on the committee; and a subscription of 2s. 6d. per annum was fixed for the local Association.

Mr. Conyngham remarked that at the December meeting some who were present would not agree to be members unless unanimous action could be attained. One gentleman refused to be bound by any rules.

The President: At that meeting there was a unanimous adoption of the P.A.T.A. In this Association we do not seek for the present, at all events, to go further in the matter of binding prices, or anything like that. That might be a matter for discussion hereafter. This Association is to be a local nucleus for the P.A.T.A.; but it will be quite open to anybody joining it to express his views as to how far it should go.

Mr. Conyngham said that at the December meeting Mr. McWalter opposed the movement. After some further conversation on this subject

Mr. Downes said the Federation ought to take cognisance of the Bill which had been introduced in the House of Lords by the Duke of Devonshire, entitled "An Act for Regulating the Sale of certain Poisonous Substances." The idea of the measure was to regulate the sale of all poisonous substances which are not at present scheduled as poisons in the Poisons Acts. Mr. Downes read the sections of the Bill, and said that they ought to protest. They should object to a recognition of the sale of "poisonous substances" as distinct from "scheduled poisons." They had in Ireland a class of educated chemists and druggists, in addition to the pharmaceutical chemists, who were specially qualified to sell poisons, and to them should be committed the sale of poisons and poisonous substances, instead of making it possible for such things to be sold by every huxter and grocer. (Hear, hear.) Restriction of the sale of these things was what was wanted, and not widespread permission to sell. The regulations respecting sale provided by the Bill would only hit the seller who was honest enough to comply with them, but afforded no remedy for such mischief as had occurred, because there was no provision that the name of the buyer should be taken. Substances that were poisonous and consequently dangerous should not be allowed to be sold by unqualified persons.

Mr. Kelly said they had in Ireland between 500 or 600 pharmaceutical chemists and 700 or more chemists and druggists. This gave between forty and fifty pharmaceutical chemists for each county. Why should the means of earning butter for their bread be taken from them after all the educational labour and expense through which they had gone? Likewise, the educated chemists and druggists were settled down through the country, and they would be starved out if the sale of poisons were handed over to others as well as them. The present Bill was evidently the work of men who knew nothing about the sale of poisons.

Mr. Wells quite agreed with Mr. Kelly that the man who drafted this Bill knew nothing about the subject.

Mr. Downes moved that the Bill be considered by the committee of the Society now formed, which was agreed to unanimously.

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The Month's News.

LEGAL CASES.

Pharmacy Act.—At Castlebellingham, on May 26, Mr. James Gannon and Mr. S. Butterley, shopkeepers, were charged under the Pharmacy Act for keeping open shop for retailing and dispensing poisons, and selling a poisonous compound containing carbolic acid, known as McDougall's sheep-dip. Mr. Gannon was also summoned for dispensing, he not being properly qualified; and, further, for selling poison—viz., carbolic acid—without having his name and address on the bottle containing said poison, as required by the Act. Mr. Butterley was also summoned for selling a poisonous compound containing morphine, and without having his name and address on the bottle. The cases were adjourned.

Linseed-meal Cases.—At Dublin Police Court, on June 8, Mr. Burns, pharmaceutical chemist, was charged under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act with having sold linseed meal which Sir Charles Cameron, city analyst, stated was linseed-cake meal and not crushed linseed. After hearing the evidence, the Magistrate said he was not satisfied that the assistant heard Mr. Kane ask for B.P. quality, and he accordingly dismissed the case. Similar charges against Mrs. Robinson, druggist, and Mr. C. Mannin, pharmaceutical chemist, were also dismissed.

McDougall Sheep-dip Case.—On May 14 we reported a case tried at Kells County Sessions, in which a firm named Clarke sued a registered druggist named Cooney for 26*l.* for damages for the death of a cow and injury to a bull caused by his selling a poisonous substance when McDougall's sheep-dip was asked for. Evidence was given by Professor Tichborne that 11.5 per cent. of arsenic was in the preparation supplied. At the adjourned hearing, on June 21, at Navan Sessions, Judge Curran said he concluded that the preparation supplied was not McDougall's sheep-dip, which would have been innocuous when applied to animals in the way that it was used, but that the stuff supplied by Mr. Cooney was a deadly compound. No evidence being forthcoming to change his view, his Honour gave judgment for the plaintiff for 21*l.* damages and 4*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* expenses.

VARIA.

The Clonmel Dispenser has had an increase of salary of 25*l.* granted, subject to the sanction of the L.G.B.

Mr. W. J. Baxter, pharmaceutical chemist, Coleraine, has been re-elected Chairman of the Town Commissioners of Coleraine.

Messrs. Fannin & Co. (Limited), Dublin, are about to open in Belfast a branch of their pharmaceutical and surgical-appliance establishment.

Messrs. Hoyte & Co., the Sackville Drug-hall, Dublin, have completed extensive improvements to the exterior of their concern in Lower Sackville Street.

The Drug-contract of the Mitchelstown Guardians has been given to Mr. Broderick, Fermoy; and Mr. Cook, of Gorey, has secured the Enniscorthy Union contract.

Mr. Charles O'Hagan, L.P.S.I., has removed from 43 Hill Street, Newry, to more commodious premises in the same street, lately occupied by Messrs. Agnew & Co.

Mr. R. S. Pellisier, chemist and druggist, Mitchel Street, Clonmel, has acquired additional premises in O'Connell Street, a part of which he is devoting to the sale of cycles.

Mr. A. H. Jones, Medical Hall, Doneraile, has had his pharmacy wrecked by a runaway horse. Damage was done to the amount of 200*l.* The shop had only the week before been repainted and renovated.

The Magherafelt Guardians have ordered sixty-six potato-sprayers from Mr. S. McKinney, Cookstown, manager of the Ulster Chemists (Limited). Mr. McKinney is an authority on the treatment of potatoes with sulphate of copper.

At the Meath Industries Exhibition Mr. J. P. Timmon, of "Timmon's Medical Hall," had a display of perfumes and toilet-requisites, horse, cattle, and dog medicines, and also exhibited some pure-bred Irish terriers of his which have secured many prizes at various Irish dog-shows.

The Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland (Northern Branch) at the monthly meeting of the committee, on May 27, appointed a Law Committee for the coming year and elected new members. Other topics discussed were the increased fire-insurance rates, alleged to be due to the want of efficient facilities for extinguishing fires, the arrangements for the forthcoming Conference, and P.A.T.A. matters.

Clonmel Dispenser's Salary.

The Local Government Board have informed the Clonmel Board of Guardians that they cannot sanction the proposed increase of 25*l.* in the salary of Mr. Eaton, apothecary of Clonmel dispensary, "as he had accepted the office at his present salary so recently as July, 1897." The Dispensary Committee had unanimously recommended the increase, full particulars of the discussion appearing in the *C. & D.* of June 11, page 938.

Company Pharmacy.

The Dublin *Daily Express* has cordially supported the policy of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland in reference to company pharmacy. After explaining the law on the matter the *Express* says:—

Even persons who are not eligible to present themselves at the Society's examinations, and some who have presented themselves and been proved to be unable to pass the examinations, have in this way gone into business. The Pharmaceutical Society feel they have a duty to the public as well as to their own licentiates in this matter, but have no way of overcoming the laches in the law except by fresh legislation. The correspondence shows that it is not merely a pharmaceutical question, but that all professions are exposed to the same evil. That the medical profession realise this the action of the British Medical Association and of the British Medical Council in approaching the Government proves. The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland argue that the evil is at the door of the Board of Trade, for they say, and we think logically, that a "lawful purpose" is the fundamental "requirement" of the Companies Acts, and as unqualified persons cannot carry on a pharmaceutical business it is not a "lawful purpose," but an unlawful one, they are promoting when they seek to be registered as a company. The registrar ignores the question, and the only requirement he recognises is a "form" and a "fee." It is plain, however, that some members of the Society are themselves not free from blame, for these gentlemen have formed companies and keep open shops, but of course they are, under the conditions of the law, not bound to have qualified persons in their employment. The question is of much importance to the public, as well as to the apothecaries and others engaged in the drug-trade.

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